Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-075
Thursday
18 April 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-075 18 April 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Syria, GCC Pressure PNC Members on 'Arafat *[APS]* 1
PNC's Al-Fahum Cited on Palestinian Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Apr]* 1
'Martyr Abu-Jihad' Group Claims Jan Fatah Killings *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Arafat Meets Soviet Charge in Tunis 17 Apr *[Algiers VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Commentary on 'Safe Havens' for Iraqi Kurds *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Local Radio To Begin Broadcasting 20 Apr *[Algiers Radio]* 3

Egypt

Mubarak, Al-Asad To Meet in Damascus *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Apr]* 4
Papers View Israeli Position on Middle East 4
'Intransigent' Stance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Apr]* 4
U.S. 'Refuses' To Push Israel *[AL-AHRAM 13 Apr]* 5
Self-Rule, Conference Stand Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Israel Has 'Outdated' Concepts *[Cairo Radio]* 6

Mauritania

More on Constitutional Changes, Elections *[Nouakchott Radio]* 6
Commentary on President's Speech on Elections *[Nouakchott Radio]* 6
Taya's Recent Measures Termed 'Insufficient' *[AFP]* 7
Opposition Group on Release of African Detainees *[PANA]* 7

Sudan

Iraq Allegedly To Transfer Chemical Weapons *[SPLA Radio]* 7
Official Says RCC 'Solid' After Dismissals *[Khartoum Radio]* 8

Tunisia

Minister Briefs President on Syrian, Baker Talks *[Tunis Radio]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Amir Receives Saudi Deputy Defense Minister *[SPA]* 9

Saudi Arabia

Paper Views Middle East Peace Prospects *['UKAZ 9 Apr]* 9
Deputy Defense Minister Leaves for Kuwait *[SPA]* 9

IRAQ

Premier, UN Envoy Sign Kurdish Relief Accord 10
Hammadi Notes Iran's 'Demagoguery' *[INA]* 10
Signing of Accord Delayed *[AFP]* 10
Agreement Signed 18 Apr *[AFP]* 10
UN Head on Iraqi Approval of Troop Deployment *[INA]* 10
Hammadi on Renewed Ties With Saudi Arabia, Egypt *[AFP]* 11
Hammadi Comments on Oil Quota, Ties With Iran *[INA]* 11
Foreign Minister Decries EC Stance *[INA]* 12
Saddam Receives 'Id Al-Fitr Messages 13
Jordanian King Sends Greetings *[INA]* 13
Omani Sultan Sends Congratulations *[Baghdad Radio]* 13
Envoy to U.S. Said Detained at Intelligence HQ *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 12 Apr]* 13
Baghdad Radio on Saddam Remarks on 'Confidence' *[MAP]* 13
Refugee Details Continued Fighting, 'Horror' *[IRNA]* 13
'Revolutionaries' Execute Ba'th Party Officials *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Radio Reports Regime Efforts To Recapture Dukan *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
'Revolutionaries' Resume Attack on 21st Brigade *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Anti-Regime Operation in Al-'Amarah 'Successful' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Refugees Report 'Continued Unrest' in South *[Tehran Radio]* 14
Clashes Between People, Republican Guard *[Tehran Radio]* 15
Opposition Radio: Al-Basrah Division Replaced *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15
Hammadi Updates Figures on Returning Kurds *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Envoys Allegedly Resign Expecting Regime Fall *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 15
U.S. 'Permitted' Pro-Saddam Elements in Camps *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15
Bush Offer of Safe Passage for Saddam Rejected *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 16

ISRAEL

Levi Cites Three Points of Agreement With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Shamir on U.S., Peace Conference, Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Palestinian Notables Undecided on Meeting Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Levi Calls Off Paris Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Paper Calls Scowcroft Remarks 'Patronizing' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Apr]* 19
Further Reportage on Revava Settlement 20
Arab Party Says Policy 'Dangerous' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Political Reactions; Families Move In *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Settlement 'Challenge' to U.S. Initiative *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Shamir Interviewed on Autonomy, Settlement *[AL HAMISHMAR 17 Apr]* 21
Arens on Right To Continue Settlements *[Tel Aviv TV]* 23
MAPAM Announces Support for Peace Initiatives *[AL HAMISHMAR 15 Apr]* 24
State Comptroller Faults Gas Mask Distribution *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Apr]* 25
IDF Responds *[Jerusalem Government Press Office]* 27
Kibbutz Member, 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Hebron Youth Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Arab Killed Crossing Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Arens: Jordan Not Understanding Message *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

JORDAN

'Authorized Source' Confirms Baker Visit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
Paper: Baker Visit Wasted if Israel Not Pushed *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 18 Apr]* 32
Editorial on Baker's Past, Upcoming Visits *[AL-RA'Y 18 Apr]* 32

SYRIA

Mashariqah on Peace Process, Arab Cause *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Al-Asad Confers With Al-Hirawi, King Husayn *[Damascus Radio]* 34

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Six Detained Ministers Moved to District Jails *[AFP]* 35
New Ambassador to U.S., Other Envoys Named *[AFP]* 35

India

Schedule of National Elections Announced *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Janata Dal-Samajwadi, Janata Party Merge *[Delhi Radio]* 35
New Party Releases Election Manifesto *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Meeting Ruled Out *[Delhi Radio]* 36
ULFA Says Will Not Interfere With Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Army Sweeps Ended *[Delhi Radio]* 36
25 Injured in Calcutta Hindu-Muslim Clashes *[AFP]* 36
Kashmir Militants Threaten To Kill 2 Swedes *[AFP]* 37

Iran

Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation 37
Rafsanjani Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Syria Promises Help *[IRNA]* 38
Saqqez Governor Gives Details *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Treatment Figures Updated *[Tehran TV]* 38
UN Official Seeking International Aid *[IRNA]* 38
EC Official To Lobby for Aid *[IRNA]* 39
Over 50,000 Treated in Bakhtaran *[Tehran Radio]* 39
More in Bakhtaran; Totals Cited *[IRNA]* 39
UN Informed of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations *[IRNA]* 39
Tehran Views Internal Situation in Iraq *[Tehran International]* 39
IRGC Commander Interviewed *[Tehran TV]* 40
Canadian Minister Pledges Increased Refugee Aid *[IRNA]* 42
Departs 17 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 43
New French Ambassador Meets With Velayati *[IRNA]* 43
Khamene'i Arrives in Mashhad on Pilgramage *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Italy Reportedly Shipping Arms to Tehran *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 43
Burning Oil Wells Cause 'Gloom' in Bakhtaran *[Tehran Radio]* 43

Pakistan

Private Firms Invited To Build Power Plants *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Gulf Oil Fires Pose Environmental Threat *[DAWN 13 Apr]* 44
Black Smoke Reaches Northern Areas *[THE NATION 14 Apr]* 44
New Ambassador to USSR Named *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 14 Apr]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

Syria, GCC Pressure PNC Members on 'Arafat

LD1804101991 Algiers APS in Arabic 0853 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (APS)—We have received a dispatch from APS Cairo Bureau quoting Egypt's AL-AHALI as saying that Syria is deploying intensive efforts in an attempt to choose an alternative Palestinian leadership to the PLO, with the agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. The attempt is focused now on guaranteeing the legal quorum among the Palestine National Council [PNC] that usually elects the leadership. This report was published by AL-AHALI, the opposition organ of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Group, led by Khalid Muhyi al-Din.

The paper added that dialogue is now under way with PNC members who are among the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners who have been released recently. This dialogue is being carried out by Khalid al-Fahum, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, and Abu-Musa [Colonel Sa'id Musa] to give them hints that imprisonment or deportation will be reinstated if they do not agree to the removal of the current Palestinian leadership. This attempt with the Palestinian leaderships has been repeated in the Gulf states by [similar] warnings to these leaderships and their families that they will be deported indefinitely from these states.

PNC's Al-Fahum Cited on Palestinian Issues

PM1704163791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 91 p 7

[Unattributed interview with Khalid al-Fahum, speaker (as published) of the Palestine National Council, in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and leader of the Palestine National Salvation Front, has emphasized his rejection of a regional conference. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the proposed conference is a ceremonial meeting that will be followed by bilateral meetings with Israel.

Al-Fahum said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his meetings with Palestinian figures from inside the occupied territories did not broach the subject of an independent Palestinian state or the PLO's participation in the proposed regional conference. He emphasized that the Palestinian situation in general was suffering serious divisions as a result of the erroneous position adopted by the PLO toward Iraq with regard to its occupation of fraternal Kuwait. He said that the PLO has lost its credibility at both the Arab and international levels.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked him: How do you view the results of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region during which he announced the call for a regional conference?

He said: James Baker's visit to the region was not the first. My information is that when he met with the Palestinian delegation the U.S. secretary had been influenced by the Israeli stance, and his position was worse than before. Because he emphasized the exclusion of PLO participation and the nonestablishment of an independent state.

The U.S. secretary of state focused on convening a regional conference instead of an international conference. The regional conference sought by the United States is based on the Israeli concept and will be a ceremonial meeting and a starting point for bilateral meetings between the Arab states and Israel.

As for the states that will participate in that conference, they are Jordan, Egypt, and Syria. We notice here the total absence of the Palestinian role from the first stage of that conference. The U.S. secretary did not specify who the Palestinians are, that is, those who are to participate: Are they the PLO or Palestinians from inside the occupied territories?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your position on that call for a regional conference after Radwan Abu-'Ayyash [chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Association] welcomed the idea and called for careful study of it?

[Al-Fahum] We reject the call for a regional conference, because a regional conference would not tackle the Palestinian issue, since its primary aim is to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and leave the Palestinian issue right to the end. Then the Palestinians would be in a very weak position.

We also reject bilateral talks because they enable Israel to single out every Arab state.

As for Radwan Abu-'Ayyash's statements, we do not support these voices, because Israel continues to reject Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and refuses to exchange land for peace. Thus the conference becomes a formal one. What is required of the Arab states part of whose territory is occupied is to go to the conference without any commitment that Israel would withdraw from their territories. That is the regional conference acceptable to Israel.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view conditions on the Palestinian scene, especially inter-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Fahum] The Palestinian situation is not as we wish it to be. It is suffering major divisions which emerged as a result of the occupation of fraternal Kuwait and Iraq's defeat.

The PLO stood by Iraq in a biased way, thus leading to the fragmentation of the Palestinian arena.

At the Arab level, it harmed Palestinian-Arab relations. At the international level, the PLO has lost much of its credibility and reputation with these states.

The PLO is now in an unhealthy position—which reflects on the Palestinian cause in general.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What can be done to correct the situation?

[Al-Fahum] We of the Palestine Salvation Front have addressed an appeal to all groups of the Palestinian resistance movement to meet soon to review the previous stage of Palestinian action, draw up a new political action plan, and form a preparatory committee that would call for the convening of a PNC session and the formation of a "seventh" council in a new way in which the kinfolk inside participate.

The new national council would have to choose a new leadership for the PLO.

The appeal has encountered a response from the groups of the Palestinian resistance movement, and we are still making contacts with some independent Palestinian figures.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is a call for the convening of a Palestinian Central Council meeting soon. How do you view such a meeting?

[Al-Fahum] Convening a Palestinian Central Council meeting is unacceptable, because it would not fulfill what is required. It is an unequal meeting among resistance movement groups. Besides, some groups boycott that council and would not participate in the next meeting.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Khalid al-Hasan has called for a Palestinian government-in-exile comprising figures from inside the territories. What is your reply to that call?

[Al-Fahum] Actually Khalid al-Hasan's statement talks about a government-in-exile without the Palestinian groups' participation. I believe that such a call is unacceptable, because it will increase Palestinian divisions. We are busy deepening national unity, not causing further divisions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the Palestinian position in Lebanon?

[Al-Fahum] We have announced on several occasions that we advocate Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity and that we support the legitimate government and are ready to implement all its decisions vis-a-vis gathering in the militias' armaments. But with regard to the Palestinians' position in southern Lebanon, there is a special situation. Israel occupies part of the south, and there is the Lahd militia, which cooperates with Israel. This is in addition to the fact that the Lebanese Army is not deployed in all the southern area. When the Lebanese Army deploys throughout the southern area and is able to control the situation and work to disarm the Lahd forces, the Palestinian groups will implement the Lebanese Government's decisions.

I rule out Lebanon's use of force with the Palestinians. Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said this.

'Martyr Abu-Jihad' Group Claims Jan Fatah Killings

JN1704193191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] In Beirut today, an unknown Palestinian group claimed responsibility for assassinating Fatah Central Committee members Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] in Tunis last January. The group called itself the Martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] Group [majmu'at al-shahid abu-jihad].

'Arafat Meets Soviet Charge in Tunis 17 Apr

LD1704192691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The head of the state of Palestine and Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon had a meeting with the Soviet charge d'affaires in the Republic of Tunisia, Robert Tourdiev. The latest developments in the Middle East region and in the Palestine issue at the Arab and international level were discussed during the meeting. The condition of our Palestinian people, their valiant intifadah, and the escalating campaign of repression and maltreatment against our unarmed citizens in the occupied territories were also discussed.

Algeria

Commentary on 'Safe Havens' for Iraqi Kurds

LD1704134991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Brahim Ziwaj commentary]

[Text] The effective decision of the Western alliance has been made, it appears, at a time when coordination between Baghdad and the United Nations has achieved significant progress, as was previously indicated by the UN secretary general himself. Why then did Washington embark upon such behavior? What are the implications of this decision? Here is a news analysis written by Brahim Ziwaj, read by Mohamed Chellouch:

The sucession of events during recent hours has yielded four factors: 1. Iraq has agreed on establishing UN welcome centers in northern Iraq. 2. London, which proposed the idea of safe havens for Kurdish refugees, has intensified contacts with Washington and Paris following flexibility in the Iraqi stance, and have agreed on the establishment of safe havens. 3. The means for setting up these havens is to dispatch forces to northern Iraq. 4. The given justification for this decision is humanitarian aid to alleviate the Kurds' suffering.

One can conclude from all this that the United States, Britain, and France have single-handedly made a decision which is in fact a UN prerogative, or better still, a prerogative of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. These states are UNSC permanent member-states, and have pursued their policy because they feared the Chinese veto should the issue of safe havens for refugees in Iraq be debated. China is strongly opposed to this principle because it is afraid that if such a resolution was adopted it would form an unprecedented event regarding the international legitimacy, which could be implemented against China if the Chinese Tibet issue is ever discussed by the UNSC. China possesses legal and legitimate rights, as it were: UN principles do not provide for interference in the internal affairs of member states, and consequently the issue of sovereignty violation.

By making the decision to set up safe havens in Iraq without the agreement of the Iraqi Government; Washington, London, and Paris have therefore violated the principles of international law. To put it more clearly, they have gone beyond the law.

The second issue, which is of a greater magnitude, is that Washington, Paris, and London have embarked on a race against time to thwart the agreement concluded between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations to set up UN welcome centers in Iraq. The agreement would allow the UN to carry out its mission, Iraq to exercise its sovereignty, and the refugees to return without having to resort to intervention by other states.

The three capitals, through their intervention, aim at undermining Iraq's sovereignty so that the present Iraqi regime will not overshadow the outcome of their military victory. Since the cease-fire, Iraq has been achieving political success by thwarting the plot and by defeating it gradually.

Washington, Britain, and France, who are not interested in the fate of the Kurds, are trying to preserve their military and political victory without implicating themselves. They are only talking about humanitarian aid and the presence of symbolic forces in Iraq, while stressing the need the protection of unity on Iraqi soil. It is only the coming hours and the development of events that may decide the issue, and tilt the balance for this side or the other. One is particularly awaiting reactions from Moscow, Beijing, other capitals of influence, and also the United Nations. The issue continues.

Local Radio To Begin Broadcasting 20 Apr

LD1704205591 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Al Thawrah [Arabic—revolution] is the name of the first local radio in Algeria. It is the Bechar radio which will start broadcasts on Saturday. It will start transmitting two hours per day and will cover in particular the regional news of the wilayat of the southwest of the country. [passage omitted] Mr. Mohktari, regional director of [word indistinct] in Bechar will give us more details.

[Mokhtar] The local radio of Bechar will in principle start broadcasting on Saturday on the following frequencies:

—Bechar: 576 khz which currently broadcasts Channel 3 programs.

—Adrar: 1089 khz which currently broadcasts Channel 3 programs.

—Tindouf: 666 khz which currently broadcasts Channel 3 programs.

—And two other stations, Reggan and Timimoun, which currently broadcast Channel 1, but will be interrupted during the transmissions of the local radio.

This concerns the present, but as regards the future, we have planned to set up within a month a station which will make it possible to broadcast from a station belonging to Bechar, and the other transmitters which I have mentioned will broadcast as planned the programs of Channel 3.

[Correspondent Nasseri] Radio Thawrah will broadcast its program daily between 1100 hours and 1300 hours [GMT] on a temporary basis as from Saturday 20 April 1991. The program scheduled for this time will cover local news, especially that related to the activities of the communes of the southwest. Apart from announcements and commercial breaks, there will be lengthy broadcasts of local songs and music as well as entertainment and cultural programs.

Egypt

Mubarak, Al-Asad To Meet in Damascus

PM1704120791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Mubarak To Visit Damascus Soon To Discuss Results of U.S. Move"]

[Excerpts] World capitals, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies [dateline as published]—Egyptian diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital have confirmed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Damascus next week.

The sources said that, at their next meeting, the Egyptian and Syrian presidents will discuss the U.S. move in the region in the light of the shuttle visits made to the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, especially the new ideas which he discussed with the leaders of the region's states and through which he called for the possibility of convening a regional conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Palestinians want a solution to the Palestinian issue based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Israeli prime minister's program is not based on Resolution 242 and the land-for-peace principle.

Frayj added that "it is not clear who will be authorized to legislate, when Israel is continuing its policy of building settlements, imposing curfews, and carrying our mass detentions." [passage omitted]

Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council, yesterday rejected the idea of convening a regional conference and the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Al-Fahum told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Damascus: The Palestinian position has not changed. Any solution must be through an international conference in which all Arab parties, including the PLO, participate.

He pointed out that convening a regional conference aims primarily at singling out the Palestinian issue through bilateral talks that lead to isolated [fardiyyah] rather than complete solutions in the region.

Arab sources in Cairo have emphasized that the Arab states concerned with the Middle East issue have recently informed the EC states of their desire to activate the European role in reactivating peace efforts in the region and Europe's attempt to present new ideas for the initiation of negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties, and to explore its positions on the U.S. proposal concerning convening a regional conference instead of the international conference.

The sources said that the Arab states emphasized to the European states that played a major role in the international coalition to liberate Kuwait, especially Britain and France, that they should play a similar role in reactivating peace efforts in the Middle East and in resolving the Palestinian issue in particular because of the existence of semi-congruence between the Arab position and most of the European parties' positions with regard to resolving the Middle East issue, especially the Palestinian issue. That includes the French and Italian positions.

The sources said that the Arab states wish to secure a balance between the U.S. role and the European role in peace efforts in the region, despite the EC's unwillingness to present any new initiatives until the results of U.S. efforts currently exerted through James Baker's tours of the region are known. [passage omitted]

Papers View Israeli Position on Middle East

'Intransigent' Stance

PM1504141991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 91 p 15

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and the Israeli Knot"]

[Text] When, after returning to Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker begins to study the results of his Middle East tour, he is bound to discover that the knot is in Israel before anywhere else. Baker will not need much effort to arrive at that conclusion, for the Hebrew state has been planting mines on the road of his mission despite its agreement to the regional conference idea which Baker raised a month ago.

This is not the first time that the Israeli Government has mined the path which could lead to a just settlement of the Middle East crisis. For example, how is one to interpret Yitzhaq Shamir's declaration that his government intends to continue to build settlements despite repeated U.S. criticism of such action? Why did Shamir choose to make that announcement when Baker was holding talks in Cairo and getting ready to leave for Damascus? Why, furthermore, is he setting more preconditions, particularly on the question of talking to the Palestinians—a move that could help Secretary Baker's mission? Is leaking what was discussed, or agreed on, as something that could facilitate progress toward a settlement?

There are no illusions about the Shamir government's attitude. The real wager is on the U.S. ability to tame the Likud hawks, who try to divert every peace effort toward the imposition of a fait accompli and make the settlement a mere cosmetic and limited process.

Against that basically intransigent Israeli position, the Arab side has addressed Baker's ideas more realistically. That realism perhaps emanates from a quiet reading of the new international balances of power. More clearly, discussion of the idea of an international conference in

the old form was based on the old balance of power, whereby the Soviet Union was capable of obstruction if it was not recognized as an almost equal partner in a settlement.

That is probably why Egypt has reacted positively to the idea of a regional conference, why Syria did not shut the door to the new ideas, and why Jordan has stressed its adherence to the essence, not the form. That being the case, Baker is bound to reconsider his calculations on the basis of seeking ways to untie the Israeli knot.

U.S. 'Refuses' To Push Israel

NC1604184591 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Apr 91 p 7

[From the "AL-AHRAM Opinion" feature: "U. S. Moves"]

[Text] When the U.S. secretary of state embarked on a new tour of the region, some parties looked forward to the possibility of progress in the U.S. stand on the peace process in the region in order to end Israel's occupation of the Arab territories. But Baker's talks in Israel indicate that the U.S. position remains unchanged. Judging from Baker's meetings with the Israeli prime minister and foreign and defense ministers, as well as his meeting with a Palestinian delegation, it is obviously clear that the U.S. position remains the same. Under this stand, the United States rejects PLO participation and refuses to put any pressure on the Israeli Government. Instead, it seeks to water down stands by calling for a regional conference that could lead to direct talks without having any strong foundations to govern the course of these talks.

Thus, we emphasize that the United States, after having convinced the Arab states of the unworthiness of linking the issues of Kuwait and Palestine and that the latter issue will be addressed after the liberation of Kuwait, now wants to use up time in moves that will not give impetus to the situation. In order to make any progress, the starting point is for the United States to put pressure on Israel to force it to enter into the peace process. Since the United States, through its secretary of state, has denied any willingness to exercise such pressure, the prospects that Israel will enter the peace process are diminishing, particularly under an extremist right-wing government that raises the slogan of preparations for "war for the sake of the territories."

Self-Rule, Conference Stand Viewed

NC1704161291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi: "Security and the Arab Policies"]

[Text] If we were to analyze the Arab policy regarding the top two issues in the Middle East—the terminated Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and the Golan which ought to be eliminated—we would say that the Kuwaiti issue is taking a back seat to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

With respect to the Iraqi issue, Arab policies believe in the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity because Iraq's territories belong to the Iraqi Arab people. It is not the property of an individual or a leadership that has gone astray and that has led the Iraqi Arab people to the point of collapse. In order to avert such aggressive and autocratic policies, we point to the road of democracy as the key to security in the Arab region. It consequently follows that security and peace in the region are the responsibliity of the Arab states alone. They could ask for assistance and backing should they wish to do so.

The Arab policy is that the Israeli Government must comply with the UN resolutions, just as Iraq was compelled to submit to these resolutions. Another point that the Arabs believe in is that the road of weapons of mass destruction, which the Iraqi leadership rushed into, is the same road Israel is walking now. Therefore, the region's countries should be committed to banning these types of weapons from the entire region, and the region's countries, chiefly Israel, must observe this ban.

Here comes the core of the second crisis in the Middle East which we referred to earlier; that is, the Israeli occupation. The U.S. secretary of state will arrive in Cairo on Friday [19 April] on his third tour of the region in six weeks. Despite the great U.S. interest in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the land for peace concept, Israel is now putting the final touches on its plan that seeks to undermine any solution to this dispute. Israel is meeting the U.S. secretary of state with old and previously dismissed proposals that all revolve around what it calls limited self-rule for the Palestinians, enabling them to run their affairs, except for foreign policy and defense affairs, by themselves. The Israeli interpretation of this proposal is that it will grant self-rule to the Palestinians living in Israel. They do not believe that the same applies to the territories, which Israel must continue to own. This is as if Israel were leasing the territories to their owners while maintaining the power to take them back at any time or to build settlements on them for the new Soviet Jews.

The second part of Israel's scheme concerns the story of the regional conference, which Israel agreed to attend and which, if convened, would bring together the Arab states and Israel under the supervision of the United States and the Soviet Union. Israel agreed to the idea of a regional conference in order to escape the notion of an international conference, since Israel believes that a conference as such sponsored by the five major powers would place it before an inescapable committment. Even this regional conference, which Israeli agreed to attend, was not agreed to without bargaining. Israel says that as long as the Soviet Union is a sponsor, it first must establish diplomatic ties with Israel. Israel follows its scheme further by refusing to negotiate with the PLO because it backed Iraq, as the Israeli officials say. Thus,

Israel becomes a gap in the fabric of security in the Middle East. While proposing a regional conference, it is putting conditions and obstalces in the way. As is known, through such regional conference Israel could avert the proposed international conference and escape the UN supervision of the efforts to find a solution. It also hopes to avoid what an international conference could entail in terms of effective resolutions, as was the case regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. What is needed is to define the objectives and then to negotiate on how to attain these objectives in goodwill, which is the key to peace.

Israel Has 'Outdated' Concepts

NC1804082491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Commentary by Anwar Zahir from the "Arab Horizons" feature]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will return to the region in the next few hours to discuss with officials here the means to establish peace in this vitally important area, where every development has larger political or economic consequences for the whole world.

It is clear that Baker's visit to the region, his second in one month and his third in six months [as heard], reflects Washington's seriousness in trying to establish peace in the region and to resolve the region's issues and problems, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue. Washington's serious efforts to establish peace in the region are, in turn, a reflection of the Arab states' sincere desire to find a way to achieve peaceful coexistence among the region's states, including Israel, and confirmation that there is no objection to exchanging land for peace because peace is a goal that is sought by all nations and peoples.

It appears, however, that Israel's politicians have not learned the lessons of the Gulf war. We say this because recent Israeli statements still contain the same outdated ideas, such as Israel's need for strategic security. Therefore, we ask Israel's politicians: In light of the Gulf crisis, can the idea of strategic security, an idea which Israel has been reiterating for half a century, have any validity? The important lesson Israel must grasp is that modern weapons systems have invalidated the notion of strategic security. If Israel truly seeks to protect itself and its citizens and to achieve strategic security, then this can only be achieved by establishing peace. Only peace can give Israel strategic, political, economic, and social security.

Obviously, if Israel truly wants to achieve such strategic security through peace, it cannot raise obstacles to the peace process which has regained vitality these days.

Peace, as President Mubarak has often emphasized, is precious and worth many sacrifices and concessions. Has the time not come for Israeli politicians to respond to the Arabs with peace?

Mauritania

More on Constitutional Changes, Elections

AB1704101691 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The national news is still dominated by the important measures announced by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, in his historic address yesterday on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr celebrations. The head of state, I repeat, after stressing that our country will continue to draw inspiration from the teachings of the blessed month of Ramadan, announced that the national leadership is determined to move ahead with associating each citizen with the building of a free, prosperous, and independent Mauritania.

In this regard, the head of state announced the establishment in a few days time of an economic and social council, the organization of a constitutional referendum before the end of the year, free elections to choose members of the National Assembly and Senate, as well as the authorization of an unlimited number of political parties.

On this occasion, the head of state called on us to preserve these gains. Thus the national leadership has translated into reality one of the pledges made following the 12 December 1984 reorganization. In order to preserve these gains, it is necessary that we all close our ranks around what is essential.

Commentary on President's Speech on Elections

AB1704112491 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Radio commentary: "The Construction of Mauritania"]

[Text] Following its restructuring on 12 December 1984, the Military Committee of National Salvation announced its strong desire to free up all our people's energy to enable them to actively participate in the efforts for the country's construction and development. In pursuance of this desire, the national leadership immediately decreed an amnesty for political prisoners and abolished the requirement for departure visas. In addition to its struggle against the various aspects of underdevelopment, the national leadership collectively and gradually strove to involve the people in managing their own affairs, and this was done in all sectors of the nation's life.

Thus, free and democratic elections were organized, which resulted in the birth of municipal councils in regional capitals and other localities in the country. At the same time, sustained efforts were made to renew the organs of the mass education organizations which since 15 March have embarked upon the most important

campaign in their history so as to enable them to better play the role assigned them.

The Economic and Social Council to be set up in a few days, as confirmed by the head of state in his historic speech yesterday, will be a forum of consultation and examination of the problems and challenges confronting our country. Faithful to his principles, the head of state has just announced the organization of a constitutional referendum, the election of a national assembly and senate, as well as the authorization of multipartyism. These stages confirm, if necessary, that the restructuring movement has been able to honor its commitments and testify to its convictions that to help the country overcome underdevelopment, it is the responsibility of all Mauritanians without exception and all the citizens who are honored to belong to this fatherland [words indistinct] loyally.

In view of these observations, it is comforting to stress that our country has brilliant prospects which are confirmed day after day and which are only waiting to be harnessed. Preserving these gains is a national duty for all of us and to [words indistinct] will be to increase our ("availability), and adhesion to the policy initiated by the national leadership, whose objective is to ensure the perpetuity of our nation and the development of the country.

Taya's Recent Measures Termed 'Insufficient'

AB1604223891 Paris AFP in French 1811 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Dakar, 15 Apr (AFP)—The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM, opposition) regards as "insufficient" the measures announced yesterday by the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and the proposed plan as "inadequate."

In a communique handed to the press, FLAM revealed that the Mauritanian head of state (who notably announced a constitutional referendum followed by general elections) remained silent on the convening of a national conference, the return of deportees and exiled, and a general amnesty for which the opposition has been calling.

According to the communique, FLAM is concerned about the regime's attempt to use the democratic process through "mass education structures," the only authorized parapolitical associations.

Finally, the movement disapproves of "any attempt to reduce the Mauritanian problem to a simple problem of the violation of human rights" and warns "against any masquerade of democratization that tends to hide the real problems and marginalize them."

Opposition Group on Release of African Detainees

AB1704101791 Dakar PANA in French 1710 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Dakar, 15 Apr (AFP)—The Mauritanian president's decision to release all black Mauritanian political prisoners "is an admission of failure and an attempt to save the Nouakchott government," stated a communique issued by the United Front for Armed Resistance in Mauritania (FURAM) and presented to the SENEGALESE NEWS AGENCY, APS, in Dakar yesterday.

According to the communique, the measures announced by Colonel Taya in his address on 14 April 1991 "constitute an admission of failure and a dangerous concoction intended to save a regime founded, essentially, on racial discrimination, social oppression, and the constant violation of human rights and the rights of peoples in Mauritania." "Faced with mounting, relentless resistance by Mauritanian patriots in general, and black Mauritanians in particular, the military dictatorship has now become aware of its limitations," the communique continued, urging the communities and their vanguard organizations "to redouble their efforts and vigilance in order to create the framework for true national renewal." FURAM stated [words indistinct] need to do away quickly with this government which is largely responsible for the current situation in Mauritania." [no opening quotes as received]

On the occasion of the celebration, yesterday, of the 'Id al-Fitr marking the end of Ramadan, the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, announced the immediate release of all black Mauritanian detainees. According to a reliable source, this exercise is expected to cover 64 people involved in a coup attempt which, according to the Nouakchott authorities, took place in November 1990 in Mauritania.

Sudan

Iraq Allegedly To Transfer Chemical Weapons

EA1704151691 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Reliable SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources in Khartoum have revealed to Radio SPLA the purpose of the recent visit to Khartoum by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, during which Mr. 'Aziz held a series of meetings with 'Umar al-Bashir and the other high-ranking officials of the junta.

According to our sources, Mr. 'Aziz got a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to Lieutenant General Hasan al-Bashir. The message concerns the transfer of the Iraqi chemical weapons, Scud missiles, and other long-range artillery to Sudan and to the Arab countries which supported Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait. The Iraqi weapons in question are supposed

to be destroyed in four months' time in accordance to the UN Security Council resolution.

According to our sources, the junta has agreed to receive and give custody to these weapons. The junta also offered to mediate for the return of the Iraqi war planes which were flown to Iran during the Iraqis' war with the Allied forces, which ended in Iraq's defeat and liberation of Kuwait.

It is to be recalled that Sudan was one of the countries that supported Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait. Sudan also allocated military bases for Saddam Husayn to station his long-range artilleries and missiles in eastern Sudan, capable of hitting Saudi Arabia, one of the chief opponents of Saddam Husayn. Our sources have confirmed that some of the Iraqi war planes and weapons of massive destruction brought to Sudan after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait are still in the country.

Official Says RCC 'Solid' After Dismissals

EA1704205491 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Commonad Council [RCC] and deputy chairman of its Political Committee, has stressed that the RCC is solid [mutamassik] and stable and that there is not the slightest power struggle going on nor any infighting for spoils. He told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that all the council members were working within the framework of the revolution with all energy, impartiality, and sincerity and that anyone who departs or causes departures should do so in a proper manner.

Col. Khalifah was replying to a question from Al-INQADH AL-WATANI on the dismissal of two members of the RCC, Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hassan and Major General Faysal Abu-Salih. His excellency said there were no differences within the council and that the changes which had been effected were essential in the context of current circumstances.

Tunisia

Minister Briefs President on Syrian, Baker Talks

LD1304001591 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met Friday afternoon with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, who presented a report on his mission to Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad.

The minister conveyed to the president the greetings and appreciation of the president of the Syrian Republic, and briefed his excellency on the contents of the talks he had with senior officials of the Syrian Government, especially the Syrian prime minister, as well as the arrangements agreed upon to give a fresh momentum to relations between the two fraternal countries, and to their bilateral cooperation.

He also told the president about the contents of the political consultations he had with his Syrian counterpart regarding major international issues and the situation in the region in particular.

Mr. Habib Ben Yahya also briefed the president on the meeting he had in Damascus with his American counterpart, Mr. James Baker, and what had been agreed upon to give a fresh momentum to bilateral relations and Tunisian-American cooperation in implementation of the program agreed upon between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President Bush during the state visit by President Bel Ali to the United States in May 1990.

Mr. Ben Yahya also informed the president about his consultations with the American minister concerning the current international situation, and the initiative under way for peace in the Middle East.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Saudi Deputy Defense Minister

LD1704141291 Riyadh SPA in English 1307 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Kuwait, April 17, SPA—The emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received here this afternoon Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy defence and aviation minister.

During the meeting, Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman congratulated the emir of Kuwait on the occasion of 'Id-al-Fitr. The meeting was cordial, reflecting deep and brotherly relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Saudi Chief of Staff Lt. General Muhammad al-Hammad, and Lt. General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the commander of the joint forces.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Views Middle East Peace Prospects

PM1704121791 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and the Foundations of a Just Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has begun his second tour of the region in search of ways of establishing peace and promoting just solutions to the region's issues, especially the issue of the Palestinian people.

If this second tour within one month reflects the U.S. Administration's interest and determination to make steady efforts in pursuit of peace, a number of facts will determine whether these or other efforts will produce suitable, acceptable, and durable solutions in this explosive Middle East region.

The first fact is that whatever mechanisms for a solution and whatever methods of settlement are proposed, there can be no peace unless all parties show goodwill and true interest in a just and lasting peace and abandon expansionist ideas, procrastination, and imposition of a fait accompli.

The second fact is that, in this particular case, there are certain matters where there can be no more concessions or compromise solutions, such as the matter of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. There can be no bargaining over the rights of these people no matter how evasive Israel is. There can be no peace unless these rights are fulfilled.

The only solution that will survive in this region is a solution that stems from and is based on international legitimacy and resolutions.

In view of these facts, the world expects much from Baker's current tour. It expects adequate pressure that would stop the Israeli practices and continued intransigence and make the Israeli leaders understand what they have so far been unable to absorb or comprehend, namely that there can be no peace with continued occupation, coercion, threats, and settlements.

The world expects Baker to build on what he achieved during his first tour and to proceed from the premise, ascertained by him, that the Arabs have responded collectively to peace while Israel has openly rejected all foundations of peace.

The Arab side offered many positive elements for peace when eight Arab states submitted to Baker the Arab position based on the justice and legitimacy of UN resolutions. While many regional and international factors at present constitute a rare opportunity for peace, the time has come for the world to acknowledge the Israeli side's liability and attempts to destroy that opportunity.

The Middle East peace record is full of missed opportunities. If we are not to miss this opportunity too, and if the world is to benefit from the current international momentum for peace, the peace efforts must proceed within the context of fixed international principles. The world must break its silence and play its part in compelling the intransigent Israeli leadership to absorb and understand the prerequisites and foundations of a just peace in the region.

Deputy Defense Minister Leaves for Kuwait

LD1704111391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 April (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, left Jeddah this morning for Kuwait to inspect units of the Saudi Armed Forces there and to convey the greetings of King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to members of those units. [passage omitted]

Premier, UN Envoy Sign Kurdish Relief Accord

Hammadi Notes Iran's 'Demagoguery'

JN1704120191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1133 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today received Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, the UN executive commissioner for aid and relief, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed appreciation for the noble humanitarian efforts of Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan and the United Nations, stressing Iraq's serious and sincere readiness to facilitate his mission.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq is against turning a humanitarian aspect into a political one. He noted that the terrorist acts included setting fire to state buildings, destroying hospitals, burning official documents, and raping women in front of their families.

The prime minister explained to the visiting delegation that the terrorists' criminal acts also included making Kurdish citizens leave their homes by force.

He said that the sons of our Kurdish people began to return to their homes and areas after the situation in the northern region was restored to normal.

Dr. Hammadi spoke of Iran's use of demagoguery and subversion and its lack of response to Iraq's sincere and serious initiatives to achieve a just and lasting peace with Iran. He stressed that Iraq rejected interference in its internal affairs by anyone.

Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan praised the prime minister's explanation, noting that he is working swiftly to accomplish the humanitarian mission for which he came to Iraq.

Signing of Accord Delayed

NC1804090891 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 18 (AFP)—Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz denounced the allied deployment to aid refugees in northern Iraq, and said Baghdad hoped to sign an agreement with the United Nations on Thursday for humanitarian aid.

Mr. 'Aziz, accompanied by Iraq's Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, spoke here after an hour-long meeting with two envoys from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He charged that the dispatch of allied troops into the north to protect Kurdish refugees "has nothing to do with humanitarian assistance" but was for political motives.

He also said he felt Iraq was best placed to deal with the crisis and hoped to prove its "good intentions" shortly.

"We reject (this intervention) in our internal affairs and we condemn it," he said. "The United States and their allies do not have the right to intervene or send troops."

Mr. 'Aziz warned that the involvement of the major powers in the refugee crisis "has complicated the situation."

But he said Iraq "agreed with the mission" of the two U.N. envoys and was ready to sign an agreement with the United Nations for humanitarian operations in Iraq for the Kurdish refugees.

"Only the necessary details remain to be discussed," he said. "We continued constructive talks this evening and we hope to reach agreement Thursday to sign the memorandum."

"We sincerely believe that the Iraqi Government, in cooperation with the United Nations, can bring the best solution to the Kurdish problem which, we hope, will be temporary," he said.

"The Iraqi Government hopes to settle this problem on humanitarian and legal bases to bring security and comfort to those caught in an exceptional situation.

"We hope very soon to do what is needed to prove our good intentions," he said.

Signing of the agreement with the United Nations had been expected late Wednesday, as U.S troops started entering northern Iraq. But it was postponed "at the request of the Iraqi authorities," said one of the U.N. envoys, Sadruddine Agha Khan, special delegate for humanitarian operations, who was in Baghdad with Eric Suy, Mr. Perez de Cuellar's personal envoy.

Though Mr. 'Aziz said it was held up as a few details were still to be discussed, U.N. sources said the delay came from the "highest state authorities."

Agreement Signed 18 Apr

NC1804092491 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 18 (AFP)—Iraq and the United Nations signed an accord to help Kurdish refugees on Thursday, Iraqi officials said.

It was signed by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir and U.N. envoy Sadruddin Agha Khan, special delegate for humanitarian operations.

UN Head on Iraqi Approval of Troop Deployment

JN1704165991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Paris, 17 Apr (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has stressed the need for the Iraqi authorities to approve the presence of military elements in northern Iraq to help what he called the Kurdish refugees.

At a news conference in Paris today, Perez de Cuellar said: We first of all wish to be in contact with the Iraqi authorities to find out their reactions to a military presence in their territory.

Commenting on the U.S.-British-French plan to dispatch military forces to establish centers to assist the refugees, Perez de Cuellar added: We are studying the situation with the utmost patience in a way that respects Iraqi sovereignty.

Referring to missions by his personal envoys Eric Suy and Sadruddine Agha Khan in Baghdad, the secretary general said that the two envoys will arrive in Paris next Saturday [20 April] to report on the results of their meetings with the Iraqi authorities.

The UN secretary general met with French President Francois Mitterrand earlier today.

Hammadi on Renewed Ties With Saudi Arabia, Egypt

NC1704150691 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 17 (AFP)—Iraq wants to renew the diplomatic ties it severed with Saudi Arabia and Egypt during the Gulf war, a newsweekly reported here Wednesday.

Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi told ALIF BA' that "the severing of ties with other Arab countries will not be everlasting.

"If we see changes and willingness to reconcile from other countries, we'll respond favorably," he said.

He regretted that "not a single positive sign had been given to date" by Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with which Iraq broke off diplomatic relations February 6 to protest their participation in the allied offensive against his country.

The premier also said that Iraq "sincerely wanted to normalize and bolster its relations with Iran," but accused Tehran of being "a prisoner of the past" and of continuously seeking to "export its revolution and establish a pro-Iranian government in Iraq."

Mr. Hammadi acknowledged that Baghdad had asked Tehran to return its military and civilian aircraft which sought refuge in Iran during the six-week Gulf war that ended on February 28.

Iraq says that 148 of its aircraft had flown into Iran while Teheran claims there were only 22 Iraqi planes.

The prime minister also urged Iran to free Iraqi prisoners—which Baghdad says total 20,000—from their eight-year war which ended with a cease-fire in 1988.

"Iran must honor its commitments," he added.

Turning to the domestic situation in Iraq, Mr. Hammadi reiterated his promises to democratize the country. "We will reconsider all the laws and extraordinary measures (adopted during the Gulf crisis) in the direction of easing up and expansion of individual liberties and democratic practices," he said.

He said the government's top priority was to "provide the population with food in sufficient quantities and at subsidized prices."

Mr. Hammadi, who took office on February 23, called for the establishment of "inter-Arab relations of fraternity and cooperation."

He spoke out against the division of the Arab world into the pro-Iraq and anti-Iraq camps that formed during the Gulf war.

"The structures of the Arab League must be strengthened by a revision of the charter" of this pan-Arab organization, he said. Representatives of the Arab nations in the anti-Iraq coalition said that Iraq violated the league's principles by invading Kuwait on August 2.

Besides Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Iraq has no diplomatic relations with Syria, another member of the anti-Iraq coalition. Baghdad and Damascus fell out in the early 1980s at the beginning of the Iran- Iraq war.

Hammadi Comments on Oil Quota, Ties With Iran

JN1704125491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi affirmed the importance of strengthening the rule of law through the reform of the legal system, press freedom, and pluralism in all spheres, as well as through the change of revolutionary institutions into democratic and constitutional ones.

In an interview published in the weekly ALIF BA' here today, Dr. Hammadi said that the issue is very important. He added that this was also highlighted by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He went on to say: We should work to accomplish this in order to stay away from personal interpretations, illegal procedures, and emergency measures, as well as to normalize things in all domains in the country.

Dr. Hammadi called for a reform of the administrative system by simplifying procedures, allowing the press to criticize the system, lifting the existing immunities, and creating a judicial vehicle that will give the citizen the chance to air his grievances regarding any arbitrary measure taken against him by state officials. Such a vehicle should also work to safeguard his rights.

Dr. Hammadi reviewed the current economic situation, the relationship between the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly, and Iraq's ties with OPEC. He added: Iraq was in debt. The 1989 and 1990 budgets were austerity budgets that sought to rationalize consumption. This was done in view of Iraq's domestic requirements and also to enable Iraq to honor external

financial obligations that exceeded its oil revenues. Now there is the matter of repairing what was damaged by the bombardment of the coalition troops and destroyed by the agents in northern and southern Iraq.

The prime minister added that Iraq's oil export quota before the war—3 million barrels per day—was not sufficient to meet its needs. Iraq will explain this, will demand, and will work within OPEC through legal methods and in accordance with regulations so that Iraq's oil export quota will be larger than the one before the war.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi noted that the new Constitution, which will be discussed again, will organize the relationship between the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. He said that the presence of the prime minister or any of the ministers in the National Assembly to explain anything that needs explaining or to submit to interpellation will be constitutional, not voluntary.

Dr. Hammadi called for stronger cooperation among Arab countries, reinforcing the institution of the Arab League and rectifying its charter to make it stronger. He expressed Iraq's readiness to remove anything that would entrench division and dispute.

He also expressed regret that Iran, it seems, did not want to look to the future, but remained affected by the past, and that Iranian officials could not resist the temptation to take an available opportunity they mistakenly imagined they had. They imagined that the system in Iraq and its Armed Forces was no longer capable of maintaining internal security. So once again they fell under the illusion and the temptation of exporting the revolution to the [Iraqi] homeland. They wanted to establish a government in Iraq or in part of Iraq that would be loyal to Iran.

He added that this matter drove them to act the way they did and that this matter is now a clear event known worldwide, although they have officially stated at the highest levels that they did not exploit the circumstances to hurt Iraq.

He asserted that what the Iranians did was a step backward in Iraqi-Iranian relations. He also said that in principle, it is not part of Iraq's policy to have tense relations with its neighbors. On the contrary, in ordinary circumstances, these relations must be based on cooperation and amity. This requires a bilateral, not unilateral, positive stance.

He added that the Iranians should act in such a way as to restore confidence and good faith.

Prime Minister Hammadi highlighted the issue of the Iraqi aircraft in Iran, asserting that Iran should act according to the law because the aircraft are Iraqi property, which was moved to Iran in an emergency situation and must be returned.

He also called on Iran to abide by its commitment to return Iraqi POW's in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Foreign Minister Decries EC Stance

JN1704165491 Baghdad INA in English 1628 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 17, INA—Mr. Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister, condemned the EC suspicious stances, the last of which [was] announced by the Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos.

In a statement to INA, the foreign minister said that the Luxembourg foreign minister seems to be saying that the EC has turned into a disgraceful satellite to American [word indistinct] and sometimes a blind executor to some of the roles entitled to it in accordance with the directions and interests of the American Administration.

The minister added the question tabled by world countries is that who tries to annihiliate who and that everybody knows that the people of Iraq were exposed to a well-designed plan and to various types of blockade and boycott since the beginning of last August. [sentence as received]

The foreign minister referred to the Atlantic-American aggression on Iraq and said that complete devastation covered the infrastructure of Iraqi economy and public utilities and that the inhuman blockade on the Iraqi people represents a plan aimed at annihiliating the Iraqi people for the mere reason represented into this people's determination to have a free life away from succumbing to the American hegemony over the region and the world in the name of legitimacy and the new international order.

The foreign minister further added that peoples of the world that had followed up the so-called Gulf crisis and the aggressive war on Iraq became aware of the real motives of the aggressive alliance led by Washington. The peoples of the world were also aware that the allies had bypassed the powers entrusted to them by the unjust Resolution No. 678 issued by the Security Council through known intimidation and bribery, the minister pointed out.

The foreign minister scoffed at the dirty request tabled by the EC to the U.N. secretary general on 15th instant [this month] stressing that President Saddam Husayn was and still is the symbol of glory to the Iraqis and the guarantee of their unity, stability and progress. President Husayn would remain the symbol of pride and glory to Arab masses and peoples of the world who struggle for independence and liberation and resisting imperialist persecution, Zionist aggression and subordination to the foreigner, he said.

The minister added that hatred harboured by the old and new colonialists motivate them to spin plots on the leader who had realized for Arabism power and boosted

the Arab deterrent force against the Zionist enemy which had preserved a qualitative superiority in the past due to the backing of its American ally and those revolving in its sphere of satellites in Europe whose imperialist dreams were revived once more on the hope of getting some of the leftovers from the American master.

Saddam Receives 'Id Al-Fitr Messages

Jordanian King Sends Greetings

JN1704170791 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 17, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a telegram of congratulations from King Husayn of Jordan on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

In his telegram, King Husayn expressed in the name of the Jordanian people, government and in his name heartfelt congratulations wishing the Iraqi people continued progress, glory and prosperity and the Islamic and Arab nation, unity and the achievement of its aspirations in progress and glory.

Omani Sultan Sends Congratulations

JN1704185091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. The text of the cable follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: On the occasion of the happy 'Id al-Fitr, whose blessed days are being celebrated by the whole Islamic world, it pleases us to send you our congratulations and best wishes, coupled with our prayers for your continued good health and for the prosperity and progress of the fraternal people of your country. We beseech Almighty God to grant all Arab and Islamic peoples happy returns on the 'Id, to make all of our days feasts, and to help us realize the dignity, strength, prosperity, and peace desired by our peoples. May God answer our prayers. May everyone have happy returns on the 'Id. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations.
[Signed] Your brother, Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Envoy to U.S. Said Detained at Intelligence HQ

PM1704134391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Apr 91 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "Do You Know?" column]

[Text] Do you know that Muhammad al-Mashshat, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, is now detained in the intelligence service's external section in al-Ju'ayfar Gardens in al-Karkh, and that he faces the charge of high treason for preferring to stay with his sick wife at an Austrian hospital two months ago rather than obey orders to return at that time?

Baghdad Radio on Saddam Remarks on 'Confidence'

LD1704133291 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 17 (MAP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn expressed satisfaction Tuesday that Iraq "remains free, united and strong" and voiced confidence in the ability of the Iraqi people to overcome current difficulties, Radio-Baghdad said.

During the ceremony marking the oath taking of minister without portfolio Ershad Zibar and of two other officials of the Presidential Bureau Hatim Hamdan and Khalil Yasin al-Ma'muri, the Iraqi president also said he was "confident in the ability of the Iraqi forces and people...to reconstruct what has been demolished by aggression and saboteurs", Radio-Baghdad further reported.

"We thank the almighty that Iraq remains free, united and strong, and that everlasting actions were achieved during our victorious march", said President Saddam Husayn.

Refugee Details Continued Fighting, 'Horror'

LD1204181691 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 12, IRNA—Clashes continued last night and this morning in southern Iraq between popular forces and Ba'thist troops, according to the fresh groups of Iraqi Arabs who sought refuge in Islamic Iran today. "Popular forces stepped up clashes in several cities including al-Basrah, al-Amarah, al-Tannumah and Nasiriyah," said Jasim Ali, adding that "especially during night, the revolutionaries deliver telling blows on the demoralized enemy, seizing large quantities of arms."

Reports of fighting in al-Basrah were obvious from the loud explosions and sounds of artillery which were heard in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr Friday. The fresh arrivals related tales of horror, and said the regime is employing novel methods of torture including hurling civilians to death from helicopters, in its bid to intimidate the local people.

"We are fed up with the brutalities of Saddam (Husayn)-," said the Iraqi Arab, and questioned world silence vis-a-vis the century's greatest human catastrophe. Following its humiliating defeat at the hands of the American-led forces in February, the unpopular Ba'thist regime, has turned on its own downtrodden people, massacring them by hundreds of thousands.

A million Iraqi refugees, Arabs, Kurds and Turkomans, have flooded into Iran to escape the reign of terror back

home, where holy sites have been desecrated and sometimes whole townships slaughtered, as in southern Iraq. In related news from the Kurdish north, the Peshmergas have beaten back a Ba'thist counterattack to retake heights around Sulaymaniya captured by the popular forces.

A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said that Peshmergas killed 30 Ba'thist troops and took 15 others captives. Several heavy and light equipment also fell to the Peshmergas, he claimed. The PUK spokesman also said that Ba'thist troops tried to attack the thousands of refugees fleeing Iraq towards Iran, but were driven away by the popular forces.

'Revolutionaries' Execute Ba'th Party Officials

NC1304081491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] In response to the revolutionary committee's calls to confront the agents of the regime and the betrayers of the homeland and people and to inflict the harshest punishment on them, a group of revolutionaries in the 'Ali al-Gharbi arrested and tried Ba'th Party member Razzaq Shakir Qamindar. The revolutionaries executed Qamindar and some of his aides.

Another group arrested Ba'th Party member Musa Shuhayl and executed him after he confessed his crimes against the revolutionary and struggling inhabitants of his town.

The revolutionary committees continue the chase the regime's mercenaries and the people's betrayers everywhere.

Radio Reports Regime Efforts To Recapture Dukan

NC1304081691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The regime is making great efforts to recapture the Dukan area in al-Sulaymaniyah, where Iraq's largest dam is located. [words indistinct]

In another development, violent fighting is taking place between our heroic revolutionaries and the regime's forces in the Maydan area in the Diyala Governorate.

'Revolutionaries' Resume Attack on 21st Brigade

NC1304081791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] On Thurday evening, our heroic revolutionaries resumed their attack on the 21st Mechanized Infantry Brigade headquarters in the al-Tannumah area near al-Basrah. Immense losses were inflicted on the brigade and two 82-mm mortars, hand grenades, and ammunition were seized.

The new attack followed the massive attack which our revolutionaries launched on the headquarters of the same brigade on Wednesday evening. Our revolutionaries killed Lieutenant Colonel Ja'far 'Abd-al-Hadi Sarraj after storming the first and second defense lines and destroying the 3d regiment command. The corpses of over 50 of the regime's men were seen in the battlefield, including regiment officer Ahmad Murad. Our revolutionary forces were also able to liberate seven personnel from brigade headquarters including privates Ja'far Jabir Duhi al-Darraji from al-Basrah and Nazim al-Sammara'i.

Meanwhile, one of the heroic revolutionaries participating in the attack told our radio that the revolutionaries seized large quantities of weapons and equipment, including rocket launchers, antiaircraft guns, communications equipment, and light machine guns.

Anti-Regime Operation in Al-'Amarah 'Successful'

NC1704202791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1925 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries have stepped up their offensive attacks against positions manned by Saddam's troops in the al-'Amarah Governorate. The revolutionaries have carried out a successful attack against the regime's positions in the area of al-Musharrah with the following results:

1. Killing or wounding a large number of Saddam's mercenaries.
2. Capturing nine personnel, who were evacuated into the areas controlled by the revolutionaries.
3. Destroying nine military vehicles of various types.
4. Seizing large numbers of weapons, ammunitions, and military equipment, including several mortars of various caliber and RPG's.

The revolutionaries returned safely to their bases along with the booty and the personnel.

Refugees Report 'Continued Unrest' in South

LD1604121591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Unrest continued in the southern regions of Iraq throughout yesterday and last night. According to IRNA, refugees who took sanctuary in Iran yesterday and today confirmed reports of continued unrest in Iraq's southern cities, especially in al-Basrah, Musharah, Abu-al-Khasib, al-Tannumah, Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah. They said that these clashes become more intense at night. A soldier belonging to Iraq's Republican Guard, who took refuge in Iran yesterday but did not wish to reveal his name out of fear for the safety of his family in Iraq, confirmed reports of the growing desertion of soldiers from service. He said: In the past two days the opposition forces, in an attack launched against the government forces around the city of al-Kahla, inflicted some casualties and losses on them. He added: In those clashes, in addition to the destruction of war equipment and vehicles belonging to Saddam's forces, around 20 Ba'thist soldiers were killed.

Abu-al-Tamim, a resident of Baghdad, who has taken refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran, remarking on the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's deployment of helicopters and tanks against the popular uprising, said: To intensify his suppression of the Iraqi popular uprising, Saddam has increased the number of inspection posts throughout the country to the extent that in every street there are agents carrying out traffic inspections and body searches.

Clashes Between People, Republican Guard

LD1704113391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Clashes between the people and the Republican Guards continue in southern Iraqi cities. According to an IRNA report, several Iraqi refugees who arrived in Iran today via the southern borders, said: Yesterday, the Iraqi forces executed a number of inhabitants of al-Qurnah and al-Kahla who had demonstrated against Iraqi Ba'thists. According to this report, the Iraqi refugees saw several corpses of the Iraqi forces, who had died in mine explosions or from hunger and thirst.

An Iraqi refugee said: The popular forces captured a large group of the Ba'thist forces in the city of al-'Amarah last week. During the same period, the popular forces also destroyed several military vehicles, arms, and equipment and killed a number of Republican Guards. On the basis of this report, the Ba'thist military forces have arrested and executed hundreds of defenseless Iraqi people in the cities of Maymunah and al-'Amarah, and even some small children, whose fathers had taken part in the clashes against the Republican Guards, were killed.

The Radio Voice of the Revolutionary Iraq, on the other hand, announced this morning: A group of Iraqi opposition forces attacked a military column in the 'Ali al-Charbi region. IRNA quotes this radio as saying that in the course of this attack the Ba'thist forces suffered some losses and casualties.

Opposition Radio: Al-Basrah Division Replaced

NC1804080491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0625 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] As a result of our heroic revolutionaries' successful attacks on units of the 5th Division in al-Basrah and in view of its officers' and soldiers' sympathy with the popular revolution, the enemy has withdrawn the 5th Division from its position and replaced it with the 52d Armored Division.

The new division is commanded by Staff Brigadier General Ghadban Kurdi, a murderer well known for his crimes against the sons of our oppressed people. His name appears on the list of wanted criminals the revolutionaries hope to bring to justice for the innocent blood they shed.

Hammadi Updates Figures on Returning Kurds

JN1704191091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated that Kurdish citizens that were forcibly removed from their homes on the border areas with Iran and Turkey continue to return to their cities, villages, and farms in the northern area. He added: The number of those who returned across the borders today totaled 9,852. Therefore, as of today, the grand total of citizens who returned this week is 97,736. The local authorities in the northern part of the homeland are providing them with all required facilities, including vehicular transport.

Envoys Allegedly Resign Expecting Regime Fall

NC1704153591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Voice of the Iraqi Opposition Radio has learned that the Iraqi ambassadors to Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, and the United States have left the service and have officially resigned.

We have learned that Iraqi Ambassador to Portugal Mundhir al-Hindawi, Ambassador to Spain Irshad Tawfiq Isma'il, Ambassador to Switzerland [name indistinct], Ambassador to Australia 'Afif al-Rawi, Ambassador to Germany 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, and Ambassador to the United States Muhammad al-Mashshat have left the service after realizing that the tyrant's regime is nearing its end. Consequently the new regime in Iraq will harshly call to account the elements of this regime, except those who back down at the appropriate time and stop serving this defeated regime.

We have also learned that Sa'd Ahmad Tawfiq, director of Air Iraqi Airways Switzerland office, has resigned his post and departed for an unknown destination. He is believed to have joined the Iraqi opposition. Yesterday, we broadcast to you the text of the resignation of Dr. Munaf Hasan 'Ali, cultural attache in Moscow, who also has joined the Iraqi opposition.

The Iraqi opposition radio takes this opportunity to issue an appeal to the remaining ambassadors and representatives of the regime abroad to quickly submit their resignation and to stop serving this regime, which has proved it is hostile to the people and works to destroy the homeland.

U.S. 'Permitted' Pro-Saddam Elements in Camps

NC1704202591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1925 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] While the United States claims to have an interest in the refugee issue of our unjustly treated people, U.S. troops have taken away tents and basic living necessities from Iraqis fleeing Saddam's injustice in southern Iraq.

The refugees remain without shelter while U.S. troops claim to be protecting them.

Meanwhile, it has become certain to us that U.S. troops have permitted some of Saddam's security and intelligence elements to infiltrate the refugee areas to assassinate leading and known figures who have come from various parts of Iraq to take shelter in the Safwan area.

Bush Offer of Safe Passage for Saddam Rejected

NC1704174391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Unattributed political commentary; formerly Voice of Free Iraq]

[Excerpts] Who of you has seen Saddam Husayn or his photograph lately? His face is terrifying. His eyes are shallow and tired, but they have not lost the spark of rancor and evil. The lethargy, which has greatly affected this stone idol, has left on his face signs of fear, anxiety, and harassment. The tranquilizers and uppers have destroyed Saddam Husayn and left the image of imminent death on his face. Whoever looks carefully in his eyes can see his lack of sleep and disappointment. One senses that the man with this deathly face is hateful. He is angry because he sees that all the rivers of blood he made flow in Iraqi homes have not prevented the Iraqi people from rebelling. All his crimes, which exceeded—by their number, scope, and type—all the crimes of murderers in human history, have not stopped the cancer eating away at his regime and bringing him closer to the coming alarming abyss. [passage omitted]

The Iraqis are moved by a profound anger to catch this stumbling, wounded animal and inflict a just punishment on him, his followers, and his gang—his brothers, sons, and perverted sons-in-law. They also want to take revenge on them for all the crimes they have committed against the thousands of this country's elite, for all the destruction they caused in Iraqi towns and villages, for all the wealth they wasted, and for the defeat they caused our dear army and our great Iraq.

We reject giving this insignificant, despicable animal a chance to flee to another country, as U.S. President Bush said yesterday as a price for ridding Iraq of the defeated tyrant's regime. Regardless of the U.S. President's convictions, calculations, and estimations, the price of Iraq's freedom is not in smuggling Saddam Husayn out. We say this because this patient and wounded people, in all the sacrifices they have offered and the disasters they have endured, reject the notion that the life of this worthless murderer has any value whatsoever. Every crime he has committed in the north, south, and center of Iraq in the past 20 years demands that he be killed 100 times and demands that his family and gang members be hanged 1,000 times.

Even if this good and patient people were to forget all his crimes, the defeat, the destruction, and the looting, they will never be tolerant about the fate and dangers to which he drove the country today, dangers which are threatening its integrity and the unity of its territory and people. He has opened the door wide to suspect partition plans which many treacherous and ignoble parties are trying to impose on the Iraqis today under the guise of human rights and defense of our Kurdish people. The world treachery quarters using their hardships as a Trojan horse to partition Iraq into weak and agent states which will weaken Iraq and end its effective and vanguard role in the Arab and Islamic world.

Saddam Husayn has not only destroyed Iraq, plundered its resources, killed and displaced its people; he has destroyed Iraq's fate and future and turned this dear and strong country into a dead corps torn apart by the knives of the slaughterers, whose appetite is being aroused today by the tragedy of the Iraqis. [passage omitted]

Even if we remove from the records of this foolish animal all his savage crimes, his big crime in disintegrating and tearing the country apart cannot go unpunished. One execution is not enough. One bullet will not satisfy this people whose dignity has been wounded and whose wealth, unity, and future have been destroyed. We will never, never allow this animal to be smuggled out of Iraq. O big players, stop deciding the future of Iraq and the Iraqis.

Levi Cites Three Points of Agreement With U.S.

TA1804052691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says he has not changed his views since the period when he was one of the constraints ministers. However, today, Levi said, the obstacles on the path to peace had been removed, and there is no need to say yes to Baker, because Israel is now receiving a yes from Baker.

Speaking to a group of supporters in Tel Aviv, Levi said three areas of agreement have been reached with the Americans: That there will be no Palestinian state; that there will be no negotiations with the PLO; and that Palestinians abroad and Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem will not take part in peace negotiations.

Shamir on U.S., Peace Conference, Jordan

TA1804085991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 18 Apr 91

["Special Independence Day" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, happy holiday to you.

[Shamir] Happy holiday to you too.

[Golan] This Independence Day is marked by peace efforts. This evening Secretary Baker is coming here for a third round of talks in five weeks. Does this mean that his efforts to convene a regional conference are in very high gear?

[Shamir] I hope this is the case. We are witnessing a very serious effort on the part of the U.S. Government, and I really hope this effort will yield fruit.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, some predict that this time Mr. Baker will exert heavy pressure on both us and the Arabs. Is Israel willing to show additional flexibility, beyond what it has shown during previous talks?

[Shamir] I sincerely hope that pressure is not the issue. Anyone who knows Israel, knows that pressure does not yield flexibility—just the opposite. After all, we are not talking about flexibility. We are interested in peace, and when we see that a certain road leads to peace faster and in a more complete fashion, we will not hesitate to take it.

[Golan] Let us assume, sir, that the Arabs will meet us part way on the issue of the one-time opening conference we are suggesting. If this is the case, will Israel make a concession, for example, on the participation of an East Jerusalem Arab in the negotiations?

[Shamir] Look, there are things that are not even worth trying. There are things on which we cannot change our stands, not even by an inch. One of these things is the problem of Jerusalem. When it comes to Jerusalem, I would suggest to anyone who thinks about it, not to even begin an attempt to change our stand.

[Golan] Meaning that there is no chance that we would accept an Arab resident of East Jerusalem as a member of the Palestinian delegation or the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] I do not know that anyone is considering this or that it is being discussed, but I would not suggest it and I would recommend that no one begin any form of attempt to make some sort of change in our stand concerning Jerusalem.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you refer to reports that come from Washington, even before Baker does, that he has gone back on several understandings with Israel? They say now that he agrees not to immediately dissolve the framework of the regional conference, thus leaving this framework in the background during the later stages of the negotiations. Also, there was a report that Baker does agree to the participation of an East Jerusalem Palestinian.

[Shamir] I suggest that we disregard all of these rumors altogether. I believe there is no truth in them.

[Golan] Do you not fear that the salami method will be used now as a means to advance the process; namely, now that we have determined our positions, Baker and his men will come to us and say: The Arabs are proposing another step forward?

[Shamir] We are well experienced with the salami method, and we do not like it. I sincerely hope that no one tries to take this road. There are clear lines, and I believe they allow a very broad path that could lead to an understanding and an agreement between us and the Arabs.

[Golan] What if someone makes the mistake of trying to use this salami method?

[Shamir] As I said before, this will lead nowhere.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, will Israel accept the participation of the Europeans in any way? Will it accept any form of international accompaniment, even after the opening event, as the Europeans have asked?

[Shamir] These are two different things. When I visited London last week, the Europeans asked me to examine our position concerning their participation in this or another manner. Europe wants to show political independence. They are very interested in taking part in such a move, such a process, the peace process between Israel and the Arab world. It is very possible that they are even willing to change their stands in certain respects in exchange for being granted this possibility. We will examine this.

[Golan] Is it possible that if they, for instance, remove the PLO from the scene of the game, we would be willing to accept them?

[Shamir] I do not know. I would not place conditions at this stage. I do not exclude the possibility that, one way or another, we would allow Europe to contribute its share to this process.

[Golan] As an observer at the regional conference?

[Shamir] This is precisely the reason why I will not go into detail.

[Golan] Would you be willing to consider the possibility that the regional conference does not break up immediately after the opening but that it remain as such?

[Shamir] Our attitude is not to go to a conference that would hold votes and make decisions; rather we want to hold a meeting, stressing—at least—the symbolic participation of the international elements; conclude the formal part with this, and immediately move on to bilateral negotiations, which is the essence, the true content of this whole offer and idea. That is why the special character should not be changed, because otherwise, it would create something which is absolutely different from what we think of and aspire to, and the whole thing would lose its point and right to exist.

[Golan] Does that mean that the regional conference should be, as we say, a one-time event that ends after it is held?

[Shamir] This is the idea.

[Golan] And what if Syria demands that things be different and we want Syria in the process?

[Shamir] Syria might make demands. I hear that there are Arab elements who, for instance, want this meeting to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and have a UN character. This is a complete change from what we are asking for. We will not take part in any peace meeting that is linked with the United Nations. We have plenty of experience to know that only one-sided direct negotiations are possible, without the UN machinery that could only force solutions. If this is done, it would take away the positive character of the whole matter. We want a positive move that would yield results. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, there is one Cabinet member who precisely at this time is stressing the issue of settlements through daily declarations and tours with reporters in the territories.

[Shamir] This is in opposition to the government's stand.

[Golan] Will you call him to order?

[Shamir] This is a different matter.

[Golan] You say that the issue of settlements is the policy of the whole government. Are you willing to consider a temporary halt to the construction drive in the territories in return for an end of the Arab boycott? It appears that Baker attempted to inquire about this during his talks in Israel.

[Shamir] There was no such inquiry during his talks in Israel. There were unfounded speculations made here and there by people who are against any Jewish settlement in certain areas of Eretz Yisra'el to begin with. I do not encourage any such attempt. It will not work.

[Golan] What if after he arrives here, Baker demands during your discussion on Friday [19 April] that settlements be stopped, claiming that the timing—not mentioning our right—might disturb the advancement of the peace process. What would you tell him?

[Shamir] I do not think he will make such a proposal.

[Golan] What if he does?

[Shamir] I do not think he will. [passage omitted]

[Golan] The incidents along the Jordanian border continue. Another severe clash took place near Neve Ur. Is Jordan truly a good and reliable partner for negotiations?

[Shamir] The incidents along the border do not indicate an encouraging and positive development. I believe that the Jordanian regime is not interested in these very serious clashes. We cannot accept them in any way. I am certain that in time, or rather in the next several days, we will find a solution to the problem through the joint efforts of Israel and the Jordanian authorities.

[Golan] Recently you called on King Husayn to join the political process. Israel prefers a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Is this positive attitude to the Hashemite Kingdom the result of a meeting you held with King Husayn, as was published?

[Shamir] These are fairy tales. My stand is the result of the objective circumstances: a long border between us and Jordan, and the fact that many people of Palestinian origin live in Jordan, and they should be represented one way or another in the negotiations. That is why I believe that Jordan should take part in the process, but there is no doubt that the serious and dangerous incidents must stop.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, do you believe that at next year's Independence Day festivities we will already be past the regional conference and be in the midst of the peace process?

[Shamir] We must hope, and we must do everything we can to turn hope into reality. I want to believe that indeed, after a reasonable time, we will witness the positive change that we work for, and that we feel it on each of Israel's borders.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you, and a happy holiday to you and all the people of Israel.

Palestinian Notables Undecided on Meeting Baker

TA1704091091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem is attempting to organize another meeting between Secretary of State Baker and a Palestinian delegation.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several dignitaries, including Faysal al-Husayni and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, have been asked to organize and participate in the meeting.

Abu-'Ayyash told our correspondent that no decision had been reached on the matter yet, and other notables asserted that they were still awaiting instructions from PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

Levi Calls Off Paris Visit

TA1704133291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has called off a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, which was scheduled to take place at the beginning of next week in Tunis. It was reported in Paris today that Dumas had postponed planned visits to North Africa.

Meanwhile, Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi has canceled his visit to Paris. Levi was to have attended an event sponsored by the French Jewish community and to have met at the start of next week with President Francois Mitterrand and Dumas. The official reason for the cancellation given was the upcoming visit by James Baker to Israel. Voice of Israel correspondent Gid'on Kouts, however, says that Levi canceled over the planned Dumas-'Arafat meeting, which as mentioned, was canceled.

Paper Calls Scowcroft Remarks 'Patronizing'

TA1604111091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Scowcroft's Strategic Depth"]

[Text] The assertion by U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, reported yesterday, that Israel needs no strategic depth, coming from an official of the world's most powerful nation and one of the largest, could be dismissed as merely a display of bad taste, like the mocking of the needy by the haughty rich. Israel with Judaea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan Heights is the size of one of the smaller states of the United States, and it is presumptuous and patronizing for an American to tell tiny Israel what strategic depth it needs in order to survive.

As it happens, Scowcroft's statement contradicts the conclusions of a study made by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, which posited that the mountain ranges of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan were vital for Israel's defense. It also ignores President Gerald Ford's commitment to Israel's retention of the Golan, made to then premier Yitzhaq Rabin. But far more pertinent is that the U.S.'s own conduct in recent years belies this pronounced contempt for strategic depth. For all its gigantic size and power, the U.S. has viewed the presence of potentially hostile forces anywhere near its own borders as a threat and a pretext for military intervention and preemption.

During the past three decades, the U.S. has sponsored an unsuccessful invasion of Cuba to dislodge Fidel Castro, and gone to the brink of nuclear war to prevent Soviet missiles from being deployed there. Skirting international law, and with remarkable absence of compunction about interfering in other nations' internal affairs, it has intervened in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Grenada and Panama to remove undesirable rulers; supported a revolution against the government of Nicaragua; and actively helped suppress a revolution in El Salvador. None of these countries borders on the U.S. The closest, Cuba, is separated from the tip of Florida by 150 kilometers of ocean, almost twice the distance from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean.

Scowcroft's contention has also been belied by the Gulf war, in which it was territory, not missiles, that counted. A rain of Scuds could not have subdued even a relatively defenseless country like Kuwait, and had the tiny emirate been protected by a fortified mountain range, Iraqi tanks could have been held at bay until aid arrived. Kuwait, a country precisely the size of pre-1967 Israel, was devoured in six hours by armored columns because it was topographically and geographically vulnerable. Iraq, too, although subjected to the most concentrated and accurate massive air offensive in history, could not be forced to withdraw from a small piece of territory until American armor actually invaded the territory itself. The Scud attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia did not alter the strategic position of either nor did they threaten their survival. filed from closer range, either from the Golan or Samaria, would have been far more accurate and harmed Israel more. [incomplete sentence and punctuation as published] But strategic depth doesn't matter, Israel is told.

Scowcroft uses the example of peace with Egypt, the most powerful Arab country, to "prove" that a piece of paper, as he characterized the peace treaty, is more important than strategic depth. Leaving aside the obvious and important differences between the Egyptian and Syrian regimes, surely Scowcroft is aware that Israel's relinquishment of strategic depth at Camp David was deemed a reasonable risk only because a vast, barren desert separates the population centres of the two countries. A desert can be demilitarized and inspected, and military movement into it can be easily detected and preempted. Such conditions exist neither in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, where there is no room even for a narrow security belt, nor on the Golan Heights, whose geographic-topographic position gives it dominance over all of Israel's northeast.

But perhaps the most puzzling suggestion made by Scowcroft was that missiles and other weapons which can threaten Israel be kept "out of range." Surely Scowcroft does not expect that, after the Gulf war, any country will take international guarantees of such arrangements seriously. Had Saddam Husayn been destroyed, there might have been some reason to claim that his fate would serve as a warning to would-be aggressors. But Saddam may have actually come out of the war with a net gain. He is assured of quiescence on the Kurdish and Shi'ite fronts, and he certainly need not worry that Kuwait will flood the market with cheap oil. Many of his missile launchers and much of his non-conventional capability have remained intact, and whatever he has lost in war materiel can be easily replenished with petro-dollars, which will soon be rolling into his treasury. To ask Israel to believe that Saddam, Assad or any other Middle East dictator can now more readily be persuaded to disarm and allow meaningful inspection of his territory, or to desist from attempts to destroy Israel precisely when it is squeezed into a 15-kilometer-wide deathtrap, is to ask it to take risks neither the U.S. nor any other country would dream of taking.

Unfortunately, Scowcroft was not speaking as just another State Department official eager to placate Arab regimes with Israeli coin. His words reflect traditional American policy, which, in defiance of all logic and history, and with a characteristic and proven misunderstanding of the region, has persistently misinterpreted the Arab-Israel conflict. It views the conflict not as a result of Arab refusal to accept Israel and as a clash between totalitarianism and Western democracy, but as an Arab grievance which can be assuaged with the forfeiture of a few thousand square kilometers of strategic land. As long as the U.S. insists on clinging to this misinterpretation, the prospects of peace will be poor indeed.

Further Reportage on Revava Settlement

Arab Party Says Policy 'Dangerous'

TA1604100391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Arab Democratic Party has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government. Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah says that even as efforts are under way to promote peace, the Israeli Government has sanctioned a new settlement and is expanding the existing ones, thereby blocking any avenue to peace. This policy is dangerous for Israel and the region. That is why no confidence in the government should be expressed, said Darawshah.

Political Reactions; Families Move In

TA1604101291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Six families, with their children and belongings, arrived at the settlement of Revava this morning. Our correspondent Gil Litman says that another two families are expected at the settlement in the next few hours. A day-care center for 20 infants is operating at the site.

In the wake of the settling of Revava, Minister Ehud Olmert said that he supports only settlements approved by the government—both in terms of their location and in terms of the timing of their establishment. In reply to the question on whether the establishment of Revava received advance approval and whether the timing of the move was also okayed and went according to schedule, Minister Olmert said that as far as the timing is concerned, he does not know. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that these remarks were made during a tour the health minister conducted in Hebron and Qiryat Arba'.

Alignment Knesset Member Moshe Shahal has asked his faction to submit a motion of no confidence in the government over construction and settlement in the territories. He regards this as an intention to thwart the political process. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir says that the Alignment will discuss Shahal's request next week when the Knesset resumes its activity.

As was to be expected, elements from both ends of the political spectrum reacted to last night's settlement at Revava. Hagay Merom of the Alignment sent a cable to the defense minister in which he asked whether the settlement at Revava is legal and was sanctioned by the government and whether the Army has barred from the site only people who aspire to peace or also those who intend to establish more settlements. Hayim Oron of MAPAM [United Workers Party] has submitted an urgent motion to the Knesset's agenda, in which he claims that the settlement of Revava was set up in the wee hours of the night, using deceptive and elusive methods abetted by government ministers in a bid to sabotage the peace process. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 16 April adds that Oron said that "the timing of the move indicates that this is nothing but an aggressive, violent action by Gush Emunim."]

Moledet, on the other hand, welcomes the settlers in Samaria. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to Moledet, the timing, when seen through the eyes of the members of the defeatist camp, is never propitious and is always considered provocative. For the Eretz Yisra'el faithful, however, settlement is a celebration and a commandment.

Settlement 'Challenge' to U.S. Initiative

TA1604110791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The head of the Palestinian Journalists Association, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, says the new Revava settlement is a direct challenge to the U.S. diplomatic initiative in the region. Abu-'Ayyash spoke to reporter Dani Gur-Arye.

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording] I believe that on the Israeli side it is a historical mistake to be made by the Israeli Government, because this will not help to put an end for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It will make it very difficult. Even in the future, if they reach a peaceful settlement, the Israelis have to find a solution for the settlement problem. And if there is a kind of continuation of conflict, this will make more problems between Palestinians and Israelis in the occupied territories because, also, this will create more provocation, more confronting each other. [end recording]

Shamir Interviewed on Autonomy, Settlement

TA1704114191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR [LAHAG supplement] in Hebrew 17 Apr 91 pp 4, 5, 6

["Special Independence Day" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Tzvi Timor and Dorit Gefen "two days after Baker's second visit;" place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['AL HAMISHMAR] The second round of your talks with Secretary of State Baker has just ended. Was progress made? What were the main achievements of this round?

[Shamir] I would not want to talk of great achievements. First of all, progress has been made, there is no doubt about that. And this is not the last round, either; there will be more rounds. I hope very much that we will achieve the goals we have set for this stage. I would not say we will reach the signing of a peace agreement very soon, but we will reach a stage that could place us considerably closer to the settlement of the conflict. Things are not simple. They are complex, everyone understands that; many factors are involved. We receive reports on Baker's talks in the Arab countries, too. Things are not vivid and clear as yet. He will definitely have to work hard on this issue.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Baker has remarked that Palestinians are being offered self-rule: somewhat more than autonomy and somewhat less than sovereignty.

[Shamir] So they say. This should be detailed. In the Camp David accords, we termed it "full autonomy." [preceding two words in English] The Arabs do not like the word autonomy. They believe it is insufficient, it is not serious. But they are wrong.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Will you accept "self-government?" [preceding two words in English]

[Shamir] We are talking about definitions. So, because they do not like the word autonomy, there are various definitions.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is it only a problem of semantics?

[Shamir] Yes, this is mere semantics. To tell the truth, the content of full autonomy is to have the residents conduct their affairs by themselves, with the exception of a few things which the central government, the Government of Israel, would retain. These are the security affairs and foreign policy affairs, and perhaps a few more affairs yet to be agreed upon.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Will they be able to have a democratic political life, parties, and press?

[Shamir] They probably will, but on this we will have to come to an agreement with them. The moment you speak about political life and so forth, security matters are immediately affected. If security matters are not affected, this would be nobody's business.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What about internal affairs, such as police, for instance? Will they have one of their own?

[Shamir] The Camp David agreements stipulate that they are to have one of their own. The security service is ours, which means that the responsibility for security lies with Israel.

['AL HAMISHMAR] While autonomy talks were under way, it was claimed that what we are really ready to grant them is authority over sewage and schools.

[Shamir] This is not true.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are we ready to discuss more than that today?

[Shamir] We did not talk of sewage and schools then. To this day, there is a full plan—I wish I had it here with me—which includes ministries. We called them "departments" [preceding word in English] or divisions. The plan included almost every ministry parallel to the government: culture, education, finance, trade, justice, health; in fact, every function with the exception of defense and foreign affairs. It would have allowed them to really manage their own affairs. We insist on retaining the basis of the Camp David accords and would like to achieve their full implementation, the result of which would be negotiations from consent.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the government willing to negotiate with a separate Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] This has not yet been finalized. What is a separate Palestinian delegation? We want it to represent the residents. The difficulty is with the PLO, and it is this difficulty that is being discussed. The Americans do not want the PLO, either. The question, however, is to what extent the PLO will sneak into this issue in one way or another. We believe that PLO intervention in this issue will destroy the process, because the PLO is not interested in it, they do not want it to be successful. For that reason, we have been telling the Americans: Do not let the PLO assume any role whatsoever in the process, because it will be an explosive that will blow up. The PLO wants a Palestinian state immediately. They have said plainly that they object to the 1989 peace initiative. We are ready to conduct negotiations; we are conducting negotiations, and this is the Americans' position, too:

negotiations only within the framework of Camp David and of the cabinet plan, the May 1989 peace initiative.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Has the government agreed on certain Palestinian figures as possible representatives for a delegation, such as Abu-'Ayyash, who have been detained in the meantime?

[Shamir] There is no connection between these things. The arrests are a security matter. No one in Israel has been arrested or detained because of their political outlook. If a man was detained, it was only because he had committed security offenses. We neither detain nor punish people for their views.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is Abu-'Ayyash a conceivable member of the Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] Since the negotiations are in progress, I would not like to make definite pronouncements. The concept, however, is that the implementation of our plan can be negotiated only with people who endorse it. There is no point in talking with people who oppose the implementation of the 1989 peace initiative. This is our demand.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Does this peace plan regard self-rule as the Camp David accords do, that is, as a transition stage?

[Shamir] Precisely that way. Anyone coming to negotiate should know in advance that he is embarking on a peace plan that is built of stages. The first stage is the autonomy plan—self-rule, as we will call it—that would last approximately five years. When these arrangements (which we also call temporary arrangements) are in their third year, negotiations for a permanent solution will be launched and we are not guaranteeing the content of the permanent solution. That's it.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The consent to a regional conference or encounter under the two superpowers aegis was accompanied by a condition that the Soviet Union resume diplomatic relations with Israel. Can relations be established instantly or is this issue likely to arrest the peace process?

[Shamir] No, no. The Americans do not regard it as an obstacle, either. I hope they will assist us with this issue, because the Soviet Union is interested in it. We know the Soviets are especially interested in being involved in the process. We do not regard this as an obstacle; we hope.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Diplomatic relations—are these an absolute prerequisite?

[Shamir] They are certainly not an absolute prerequisite. That is, if we are talking about the issue being conducted under the auspices of the two superpowers, then it is a precondition. And it is a fact that no one has challenged this approach. I mean, we have heard no objection from the Soviet Union. Had they had any, we would have heard about it.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The EC has some reservations.

[Shamir] The EC is aggravated about not being able to participate, but there are reasons for that.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What can you offer the Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, for instance, to enhance their interest in participating in the peace process?

[Shamir] They are interested in a stable and quiet Middle East. This is what we are offering them.

['AL HAMISHMAR] There were reports saying that you and Baker had agreed to Resolution 242, that is, that everyone will come with his own interpretation.

[Shamir] I would state it this way: It is a fact that there are various interpretations of 242 and 338, and each interpretation is based on something. We have a stand: Israel accepts Resolution 242 as it was agreed in Camp David. Were not the Camp David agreements signed several years after 242, and are they not based on 242? The Camp David Accords are not some Israeli invention; they are an international document agreed on by Egypt, the United States, and Israel.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Still, it can be presumed that at some point during the negotiations—between Syria and Israel, for instance—they will present their position on the issue of Resolution 242 and we will present ours. Do you envisage a possible compromise between such contrasting positions?

[Shamir] Right now we are not talking about the contents of negotiations or about the stage of a permanent solution. First of all, let us get there. If we do, then we will see what happens. The sides will make an effort to agree upon a solution. There is no other way.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Speaking earlier of the Palestinian delegation, you said you do not wish the PLO to be involved in it.

[Shamir] I certainly do not.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Does that mean the delegation should be affiliated with Jordan, or can it be independent?

[Shamir] We prefer it to be a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is it a condition?

[Shamir] We want that for two reasons, although we have not discussed the issue with Jordan as yet, and their views should be heard. The first is that Jordan should participate in such a discussion; we have a long border with that country. The second reason is that many Palestinians live in Jordan.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you, like Sharon, define Jordan as a Palestinian state?

[Shamir] I will not go into that just now. This matter is not up for negotiations at the moment. It is a fact, however, that all the previous Israeli governments'

efforts to conduct negotiations to solve the conflict were always coupled with an attempt to integrate Jordan and the Palestinians living there, with Palestinians living on this side of the river. For that reason, we prefer to regard it as a single issue. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] Secretary Baker has asked you to moderate or freeze the settlement in the territories during this period. We have heard Minister Sharon announce various plans on additional settlements. Is this liable to cause difficulties for the peace process?

[Shamir] I do not think so. First of all, I have always—and not just now—told the Americans: The matter of settlements is irrelevant where the political process is concerned. There is no connection. If 20,000 or 25,000 more Jews settle in Judaea and Samaria, it will make no difference whatsoever to the peace agreement between us and the Arabs. Therefore, since the whole thing has been exaggerated, there is no point is discussing it. First of all, immigrants are not being brought there. We have calculated that, to date, less than one percent of the immigrants have settled in those areas—if you exclude Jerusalem. Thus, there is nothing to talk about. Now, if you talk about construction, consider the present construction drive throughout Israel and you will see that the territories' share is minimal.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Haven't there been too many such declarations?

[Shamir] I think declarations are unnecessary. I am not in favor of declarations. I think the whole issue is unimportant and should not block peace negotiations. There is no connection. I remember that during the Camp David negotiations, President Carter tried to insist on this issue, and Mr. Begin told him: There is nothing to talk about. It is our right. The Jews have the right to live everywhere—not just in Eretz Yisra'el, but in the entire world. We will agree to no concessions. We will declare no region—certainly not in Eretz Yisra'el—as Judenrein [free of Jews]. No one can ask us to do that or suggest it to us. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] What confidence-building measures can you offer to the Arabs?

[Shamir] It should be done on a reciprocal basis. What we aspire to is a normalization of relations between Arab countries and Israel—full normalization in every field, similar to the normal relations we have with numerous countries throughout the world, similar to the relations we now have with countries in Europe, America, Latin America, many countries in Africa. We would like our relationship with the Arabs to resemble the relations we have with all the other countries.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Regarding the Palestinians, are you now ready to allow them to hold municipal elections?

[Shamir] Certainly. When we say they will run their own affairs, that includes local elections.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you mean, before an arrangement?

[Shamir] The how, when, and what should be negotiated with them. The Camp David accords, for instance, stated that elections in the autonomous region should be the first thing completed after an agreement is signed, in order to elect a body to run it. I still support this approach.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What is your view of the various plans that can all be assembled under the heading of "Gaza First"?

[Shamir] I do not think they are realistic. [passage omitted]

Arens on Right To Continue Settlements

TA1704162191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by correspondent Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Margalit] Mr. Arens, you have often expressed your views about the importance of Jewish settlement in the territories. Is Revava the right thing at the right time?

[Arens] I think that it would be impossible to say that a settlement is not the right thing at the right time. It is the Jewish people's natural and fundamental right to settle in Eretz Yisra'el. That is why every settlement, whether it was populated 100 years ago or only a few days ago, should be welcomed.

[Margalit] Was it wise to make that move on the eve of James Baker's visit in Israel?

[Arens] The Zionist endeavor is a very wise campaign and every settlement should be regarded as part of that wise campaign.

[Margalit] In its current scope, does this settlement adequately reflect the government's policy—I mean, as it is being carried out by Minister Sharon?

[Arens] The government's policy is not to prevent anyone, just because he is Jewish, from settling anywhere in western Eretz Yisra'el. I believe that has been the policy of Israeli governments since 1967, and it remains the policy today as well.

[Margalit] There have been partial agreements to limit settlement or wait a while; even Menahem Begin after Camp David acceded to Jimmy Carter's request not to renew the settlement momentum at once. Would it not have been wise now to wait at least until James Baker completes the two weeks of his shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East?

[Arens] I would not support such a decision in principle, because it could be construed as indicating a proviso restricting our right to settle in those areas. I believe,

therefore, that we must demonstrate that no such restriction has been put on that right.

[Margalit] That seems to have created great tension in our relations with the United States, to judge by today's major newspaper headlines, which claim that Baker is angry about the settlement and says that without pressure no progress will be made toward a political process. Is that price not too high?

[Arens] I am not sure that is correct. I am under the impression that Mr. Baker and the U.S. Administration know, first of all, that more than 100,000 Israelis are currently living in Judaea and Samaria, and that they actually constitute more than 10 percent of the population, if I am not mistaken. That is irreversible. I think they also know that the basic guidelines and the principles on which this government was formed include the right to settle in Judaea and Samaria. They are nevertheless making efforts, which we welcome, to promote the peace process. I believe the peace process is so important and comprehensive that it will not possibly be affected by one settlement or a particular addition to the 100,000 Jews who reside in Judaea and Samaria.

[Margalit] Still, a report from Washington on the Voice of Israel this morning said that the U.S. Administration wants very much to apply pressure on Israel.

[Arens] Each time Mr. Baker is about to come to the region, if you review the newspaper headlines, you will read about impending pressures on us. So far no pressure has been brought to bear on us, even though Baker made two visits to Israel. In general, it is my opinion that the nature of the relations between Israel and the United States right now is such that pressure would be an unsuitable term to describe them.

[Margalit] You say the political process is very important. Does that imply a readiness on your part, or on the part of the Israeli Government, to make several adjustments or changes, or show some flexibility in its current positions? For instance, Hafiz al-Asad is reportedly ready to join direct negotiations, though not in a regional conference—which may have been agreed upon with the United States—but in another type of conference, not only under U.S.-USSR auspices, but also with European participation. If this is so important, will you be prepared to make that change?

[Arens] First of all, we have not yet heard from Hafiz al-Asad, in spite of the hints here and there that we have heard from others. Damascus has constantly been voicing hostility toward the State of Israel. We will be very happy to hear that some change has occurred in that general direction. Nonetheless, in principle I believe that a prerequisite for the promotion of the peace process will be that an Arab country is prepared to join that process and ready to sit down with us and engage in direct negotiations. Any attempt to hide behind some type of conference is the first sign that there is no sincere desire to negotiate peace with us.

[Margalit] The line that you presented here, the one embraced by the Israeli Government, has met with severe criticism, even inside the government itself—by the right-wing circles and ministers, as well as by the construction and housing minister, who is a Likud member. All this is intertwined; there is a link between the Israeli Government's policy toward Baker's initiative and the settlement issue. Foreign Minister David Levi commented on the issue yesterday, saying that Mr. Sharon's position is unwise. Do you accept this description?

[Arens] I think that when you talk about criticism of the government's policy on the part of ministers, you actually talk about a contradiction in terms. Our government is founded on collective responsibility. Every minister bears responsibility for the Cabinet's policy and cannot criticize it.

[Margalit] But the criticism is not voiced in secret!

[Arens] True, and when it is voiced, I think it manifests a deviation from the norms to which every minister should adhere. In any case, I would say that even a minister who criticizes the government's policy should actually remind himself that he shares the responsibility for that policy. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Is there no justification in Minister Sharon's demand that the Likud Central Committee convene to endorse the changes in the government's policy?

[Arens] But there are no changes!

[Margalit] There is now acceptance of a regional conference.

[Arens] The government has its guidelines, and they include the government's May 1989 initiative. We operate exactly according to those basic guidelines. [passage omitted]

MAPAM Announces Support for Peace Initiatives

TA1504092191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] The Israeli Government's declared stands leave grave doubts as to this government's true intentions, stated the MAPAM [United Workers Party] Secretariat yesterday. However, to test the Government of Israel, MAPAM urges the Palestinian leadership not to reject outright the government's proposal for a regional conference.

MAPAM announced that it will support every initiative that offers a chance to promote genuine peace between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab countries. In this context, a regional conference with the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union—after Israel's

ties with the latter are normalized—may be the appropriate framework for negotiations, provided all the participants agree on the conference's functions and authority and that each party will be able to decide on the composition and structure of its representation.

As for the Israeli Government's viewing the regional conference's functions and authority as a merely symbolic; rejecting the Palestinians' right to determine their representation for negotiations; rejecting further territorial compromise in return for peace; and launching a provocative drive of settlement in the territories, MAPAM views these as moves likely to pass the ball, which has ostensibly fallen in the enemy field, back into the Israeli court in a tough and painful way.

In addition, MAPAM calls on all governments and international organizations to take immediate action to alleviate the terrible suffering of the Kurdish refugees.

State Comptroller Faults Gas Mask Distribution

TA1504071091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Apr 91 p 7

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat went out of her way yesterday to stress that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not knowingly issue any defective gas masks during the Gulf crisis, and revealed that she had toned down elements of her report on the issue after consulting with the Knesset state control committee.

Despite that, she failed to placate the Defense Ministry and the IDF and was treated to devastating condemnation at the weekly cabinet session, although none of her specific criticisms were refuted there.

When the IDF issued the masks to adults, she stressed in her report, it had no idea that possibly one-third of them provided a protective factor of less than the 100 which it had laid down as the minimum.

This only emerged in the tests conducted by the IDF during October-November last year.

This protective factor was determined by an instrument developed in the U.S. and in IDF use since 1988, which measures the ratio between the concentration of gas around the wearer's body and the concentration present within the space inside the wearer's mask.

The IDF, which uses a factor of 1,000 for soldiers, held that a civilian wearing a gas mask inside a sealed room enjoys the same protective factor, 10 times the minimum 100. The U.S. army laid down a protective factor of 1,667 for its soldiers, Ben-Porat noted.

The IDF's test involved only those masks without the internal vertical flap, very few of which were manufactured and issued. It transpired that the age of the masks tested hardly affected the results. What counted was the way the masks fitted the contours of the face.

Ben-Porat noted that whereas the IDF issues five sizes of masks for soldiers, adult civilians had to make do with one size only.

IDF TEST RESULTS

She quoted the IDF's own results, which for an age-range of 18-45 years, showed a factor of under 10 (zero protection) for 26 percent of the civilians, whether they sat motionless or not.

Thirty-two percent of adults 22-45 failed to attain the minimum protective factor of up to 100 while performing simple movements, the IDF found. But if they sat motionless breathing normally, this fail ratio dropped to 27 percent.

The IDF, in its summary of the tests, used the term "low protection" and held that "between 20-50 percent of wearers enjoy effective protection." Only the introduction of the new masks with the internal vertical flap would raise this to 80-90 percent.

Senior IDF officers rejected these findings, which had been detailed at a lower, professional level, only when it was challenging the state comptroller in the state control committee. This prompted Ben-Porat to write in her report that it was "the duty of the senior IDF echelon to order new tests if it thought the first tests were unsuitable, since the results of the first tests lit any amount of danger signals in the eyes of any reasonable person. As long as no more reliable test has been conducted, the first test must be considered as reflecting the situation among the adult population, since matters of life and death are involved."

Ben-Porat conceded that following the discussions in the state control committee, she had corrected her original version, which now talks of the "possibility" that one-third of the population was not given minimum protection, rather than the fact.

She points out that the IDF's attempts to refute its own findings were flawed by inaccuracies. The IDF tried to argue that the movements of the civilians tested were what lowered their protective factor, when in fact the IDF had admitted that the difference between those motionless and breathing normally, and those carrying out movements, was only five percent.

She points out that after the IDF tested 200,000 repurchased masks in a British laboratory and found only five defective, it rejected as many as 27,000 as unusable and ruled that an additional number failed to meet airtightness tests.

The IDF also tried to argue that it did not begin replacing gas masks after the controversial tests last year, because the tests did not indicate a low protective factor. In fact, its internal documentation showed that the IDF decided against replacement because it knew this was impossible once the distribution had been completed.

BUDGETARY PROBLEMS

In the body of the report, Ben-Porat ruled flatly that over a 10-year period the government denied the IDF the budgets it needed to comply with its statutory obligation to give everybody a gas mask.

In 1988, there was a shortage of 1,350,000 masks, her officials found, including those destined for children two to eight. That same year, the IDF civil defense command demanded a budget of NIS [new Israel shekels] 58.5m. over five years for gas masks. It was allotted only one-third of what it requested.

Despite intensive discussions between the IDF, the Interior Ministry and the Finance Ministry, based on the assumption that it would not be possible to stockpile enough masks for everybody without an increased budget, nothing was done till after the Gulf war broke out.

At that time, there was some increase in the gas mask budget, half of it allocated this year. But in January, the Finance Ministry rejected a civil defense demand to update the entire stock of masks with more effective models as being "unnecessary."

The comptroller suggested that the government renew its long-standing gas mask levy which was channeled through national insurance payments, but was canceled in 1987, if it was unable to find the necessary funds to guarantee everybody a proper gas mask. She also suggested that the IDF could save a lot of money by arranging for its reservists to use the military masks stored for each of them in his unit, and not to be issued with a civilian gas mask as well.

MASKS FOR CHILDREN

In the section on protective devices for children, the comptroller cited official rulings going back to 1978 that the ones available were inadequate and must be replaced by better models, but little or nothing was done about it.

She cited a document sent her by the civil defense command in January to the effect that the MAMAT [Infant Carrier Protective Device] for infants was "for lack of alternative, a temporary solution," and that the infant could remain in it for one hour, provided it was inside the sealed room at a temperature lower than 40 degrees and a maximum humidity of 60 percent. Yet in some areas, during the first missile attack, she noted, infants had to remain in the MAMAT for more than one hour.

Ben-Porat took a grave view of the fact that the IDF wasted 12 years before the design for the korech [binder] to replace the MAMAT was approved in August 1990. In January, the Defense Ministry decided to allocate the equivalent of $20m. to manufacture part of the 200,000 korech models required over a 14- month period. But for the time being, the order to begin manufacture has not been issued, she noted.

As long ago as 1979 the IDF decided it had no adequate mask for youngsters. But the bardas [hood] for two to eight year olds was developed only in 1988, and when the war broke out, there were only 123,000 bardas models in stock for a target population of 590,000 youngsters.

So the IDF decided in haste to allocate the available bardas models to selected areas and age-groups, and it devised a makeshift bardas passivi [passive hood] for the rest, by adding a plastic hood to the original youngsters' masks. While noting that there was not a single child fatality due to the use of the makeshift bardas passivi, Ben-Porat detailed the IDF's own observations about the risks to the children, mainly from a buildup of carbon dioxide, and about the need to limit the time the device is worn to an average of 90-120 minutes.

Ben-Porat noted the debate within the IDF about the maximum permissible age of gas masks for adults and teenagers, which was originally 15 years, but was extended to 18 years in order to save money. Within that extra range, a total of 837,000 adult masks and 390,000 teenagers' masks were issued, with the recommendation that they be channeled to areas where the risk of a gas attack was lowest, a recommendation which was not consistently obeyed.

In any event, the one test held, of 216 civilian adults wearing the masks, showed that the age of the masks issued was not a negative factor, but only the degree to which they fit the wearers' face.

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Turning to the responsibility of the political echelon, Ben-Porat noted that in January 1987, Prime Minister Shamir had called on the cabinet security committee for more resources and more intensive efforts to ensure proper protection for civilians against gas attacks, but his colleagues ignored his call. What is needed, she said, is an explicit cabinet decision giving priority to civil defense. The lack of budgets over the years which caused a shortage of masks and the non-availability of good quality devices was known to all, she said. It was only the fact that the Gulf crisis developed slowly which enabled the IDF to have time to improvise last year, she said. Even today, the budgets are still withheld, she complained.

The immediate urgency is for budgets to provide the korech for every infant, the bardas for every youngster, and the masks with the internal vertical flap for every teenager and adult, she said.

She also released the chapter on gas masks in annual report No. 39 of two years ago, which till now had been kept secret.

IDF Responds

TA1504085791 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 14 Apr 91

["Communication" by the spokesman of the Israel Defense Forces, IDF, in English, entitled: "IDF Spokesman's Response to State Comptroller's Report"]

[Text] The IDF accepts neither the implications of the State Comptroller Report regarding the issue of personal protection kits, nor the additional explanations which were attached to the Report.

The IDF states unequivocally that all citizens of Israel of all ages received good protection which was suitable to the threat.

Mention should be made of the fact that the State Comptroller's Committee in the Knesset, following a lengthy series of discussions in which both sides of the case were reviewed, stated that the protection provided for the citizens of Israel was reasonable, considering the threat. This declaration was made on April 9th and was the opinion of all committee members who were present at the time, except the chairman, MK [Knesset Member] Liba'i.

The equipment which was distributed provides a suitable answer to the non-conventional weapons threat which exists in the Middle East. The defense establishment has been preparing the defense of the homefront for years, has formulated a concept of action and has acted accordingly.

At the time, as today, the progress was affected by budgetary constraints and time limitations.

This concept involves five components:

1. Providing personal protection kits to all residents of the State of Israel.

2. Providing a warning siren and ensuring as long a warning period as necessary.

3. Ensuring the existence of a sealed room in every home and workplace.

4. Providing information and a counselling system for the public.

5. Co-ordinating medical and rescue efforts on the homefront.

Throughout the above-mentioned period the IDF not only equipped itself thoroughly, but also invested time and effort in improvements.

1. Masks for adults

The Gas masks distributed to the adult population provide good protection, by any internationally accepted criteria.

The comptroller team based its conclusions regarding the level of protection provided for the adult population upon its mistaken interpretation of the results of a single limited experiment, which was recently conducted by the IDF.

The interpretation given by the comptroller team differed from the recommendation of the IDF experts who devised and executed the experiment. The fact is that the team did not even meet with the IDF experts before presenting the Defense Minister with the report, so that the interpretation is based upon reading only some of the material.

The IDF informed the State Comptroller Committee that in the coming months it intends to conduct wider ranging experiments in order to examine the various types of protective equipment. The results will be made available to the committee.

2. Active "Bardas" (Hood)—A battery operated air-pumped mask.

The "Bardas" is the implementation of a revolutionary new conception in personal protection used for children—the positive pressure concept. In the absence of a suitable solution in the world for the problem, the IDF has been developing, during the past ten years, the "Bardas". New and previously unknown technologies were used in the fields of reliable miniature pumps and suitable energy sources. Stocking up on the "Bardas" began in 1989, but the because of limited resources and production rate, not all children received the masks when the crisis in the Gulf erupted.

3. Passive "Bardas"

With the eruption of the crisis in the Gulf and the absence of sufficient "Bardasim", a temporary solution was examined, aimed at improving the youth mask and rendering it suitable for children. The passive "Bardas" was created as a temporary solution, and the intent of replacing it within 6 to 10 months by an active "Bardas" or one with a pump, was specifically declared. This was to be done in accordance with production rate which was quickened.

In view of the mask's limitations, the time allotted to wearing it was limited to one hour. Following the physiological experiment (quoted in the State Comptroller's report), and further professional discussions conducted by the IDF in order to analyze the results of the experiment, it was determined that the passive "Bardas" provides ample protection.

There is no hazard to the child's health on condition that the duration of its use be limited to one hour. Indeed, as far as we know, no child who has used the passive "Bardas" has been harmed in any way.

Suitable announcements were prepared by the IDF Spokesman Unit, for broadcast by the news media in times of need.

4. Protection for infants

The "MAMAT" (Infant Carriage Protection Device) provides good protection. No item which provides better protection for infants is known in the world. The duration of use for infants was limited to one hour. This decision was taken despite the fact that under normal conditions (Under 40 degrees centigrade, and 60 percent Humidity), a longer period of time can be spent safely in the MAMAT.

Suitable announcements were prepared by the IDF Spokesman, for use by the electronic media if need arises.

The IDF has been working diligently throughout the years on improving the comfort of the "MAMAT" and on lengthening its period of use. The development proved to be extremely complicated and was further delayed because of a lack of suitable technology.

Development of the "Corech" (Binder), which improves the MAMAT's capabilities, ended on August 1990 after all necessary technologies were obtained from the "Bardas" project. Our assessment is that the comptroller's remarks stem out of a lack of understanding of the development procedures for human emergency systems.

Conclusion

The IDF regrets the need to enter into a dispute with the State Comptroller, and especially regrets the dispute being made public. However, it feels this must be done, in light of the report's publication, especially the publication of the accompanying pages of explanation, which, the IDF believes, merely increase the confusion instead of clarifying the picture.

The IDF has a long history of cooperation with the State Comptroller. The IDF respects its work and draws suitable conclusions from its criticism. This will continue in the future.

For all that, out of loyalty to the facts and a commitment to the residents of Israel, the IDF deemed it proper to publish the main facts regarding the preparation of the homefront for war, according to professional considerations in view of the IDF's responsibility for its safety.

Appendix A: Response to mask lifespan for purposes of renewal

A. The IDF conducts periodical aging testing of gas masks from production batches from each year.

B. In these tests the characteristics of the rubber from which the masks are manufactured are tested for any changes which may have occurred over time.

C. On the basis of these tests a 15 year aging factor was determined for the acquisition of new masks.

D. This safety factor is recommended by professionals for the purpose of planning the removal of old masks and the purchase of new replacements. The factor takes safety factors into account because after 15 years it is impossible to accurately forecast at what point the rubber on the masks will break.

E. Actually a test is conducted prior to the renewal date in order to determine whether there has been a drastic deterioration in the rubber's properties. An operative decision is taken accordingly.

F. In actual fact it has been determined that the older masks have not yet reached the rubber breaking point and their use has thus been permitted according to the high risk factors which have been determined.

G. It must be noted that during the of distribution of masks to the civilian population it was proved in retrospect that the IDF was correct in its decision. [sentence as received] breakage was discerned in the masks which were distributed. [sentence and punctuation as received]

Appendix B: IDF response to aging and fitting tests of adult masks (Test number 216)

A. The object of the test conducted in November 1990 was to test whether the age of the mask affects its operation. That is, whether older masks, manufactured in 1972, provide the same protection as those manufactured in 1986.

B. For these tests the IDF used the same standard tool used by the American army during the past few years. This is called "Fit factor" (Protective factor). This tool determines the ratio between the concentration of simulated chemical warfare agents outside the mask to the concentration of the agent within the mask (between the face and the mask).

C. The test results revealed that despite the fact that there exists a process in which the mask rubber ages, over the years there has been no indication that this harms its operation. This also applies to those masks manufactured in 1972.

D. In light of the test the IDF recommended not to renew the older masks.

E. In light of the test it was recommended to carry out further follow-up tests in 1991.

F. It was also determined that the test sample had limited significance. The number of tested individuals and the fact that during the test only one size of the mask was used, it was not possible to reach conclusions regarding the level of protection of the adult population of Israel in general. [sentence as received]

Appendix C: Physiological limitations of the "MAMAT"

A. The limitation stems from the difficulty in dissipating heat from the "MAMAT" during difficult climate conditions.

B. It was determined that in climatic conditions of 40 degrees celsius and 60 percent humidity in the room, the usage of the MAMAT is limited to 1 hour. This period of

time is far longer than that it takes for a cloud of chemical warfare agents to pass over a given area.

C. In climatic conditions in which heat levels are lower, that is, a combination of lower temperature or humidity, the dissipation of heat from the MAMAT is better and it can thus be used in it for a longer period.

D. Such difficult climatic conditions do not exist within homes in Israel.

Appendix D: Physiological report on the passive "Bardas"

A. The test is designed to check the physiological limitations of a prolonged wearing of the passive "Bardas". Because there is no accepted standard regarding length of time a gas mask is worn, and in order to safeguard the security of the children the test utilized very strict criteria which were taken from other devices such as diving or industrial masks.

B. The 17 percent figure which appears on the State Comptroller's Report represents problems which were discovered in 4 out of 24 children who were tested. Thus the problems which arose must be related on a qualitative rather than a quantitative level.

C. Limiting the wearing of the mask to 60 minutes and the public announcements to that effect, paying attention to correct usage of the mask, and carefully supervised childrens' behavior, made these problems negligible.

D. It is emphasized that in practice no cases were recorded in which the health of a child was in any way impaired while wearing the Passive Bardas.

IDF Response to the Report on the Protective Masks for the Civilian Population—was appended to the Comptroller's report no. 41.

The IDF distributed to the population gas masks manufactured from 1972 onward. Parallel to the process of allocating the masks, a test was carried out to check the relationship between production date of the mask and the margin of protection it provides the citizen. This was done in order to reach decisions regarding the information required for renewal of the masks distributed to the civilian population.

In accordance with the declared objective the emphasis of the test was on a statistical sample of 140 masks taken from seven different years of production which were randomly chosen from the Civil Defense warehouses. In order to achieve a reliability factor of 95 percent at an accuracy level of 5 percent it was decided to base the test on 216 soldiers.

It must be pointed out that the test was not carried out in order to determine the level of test suitability of the mask for the entire population. As a result, no representative sample was taken from any population regarding entropometric measures, women, the full age section, influence of ethnic background, etc. Such a suitable sample would include 1,000 examinees. Similarly the two sizes of the civilian masks actually distributed at the distribution centers were not tested.

The measuring device calculates the internal concentration which appeared in the mask cavity over time. The perfection function is in inverse relationship to the internal concentration. It is represented on a logarithmic scale. It must be emphasised that the device is sensitive to only on a rough scale.

The accepted protection factor while wearing a mask is an imaginary measurement affected by breathing and head movements. In a continuous supervision of the protection factor a sinusodolic curve is registered (rises and falls). For example, during inhalation, there is a negative pressure in the mask cavity and the internal concentration increases. During exhalation, the air exhaled from the lungs creates positive pressure, cleanses the mask cavity and reduces the internal concentration.

Similar phenomena also occur during sudden head movements. On points in the time scale, there is an increase in the internal concentration though immediately following this there is a cleansing of the mask cavity by breathing. This brings about a reduction in the concentration and an increase in the protection factor.

Thus, from a scientific perspective, one cannot look at the protective factor curve as a uniform average. One must check the curves directivity and to measure differences between peaks (peak to peak). The test standard includes five exercises which represent different levels of stress designed to test the mask under stringent environmental conditions.

These exercises do not represent reasonable usage patterns in the military sector and certainly not in the civilian sector. It is not expected that the civilian population in the sealed room will be called upon to shake his head up and down at a similar pace, to run or to pant. These exercises were designed for use as a tool of quantitative examinations of the strength and suitability of the mask.

It must be repeated and reemphasised that the objective of the test was obtained. The test results proved that production date have no influence on protection factor and that the masks distributed to the public are completely suitable.

As already stated, any attempts to use the findings of this test to draw conclusions on the level of protection given to the population is not professional. It is not taken from a representative sample of the population. The size of the face was not measured in order to compare it to an entropometrical segmentation of the population. The correct size of the mask (large and small) was not adjusted for all those tested.

Moreover, the results used by the State Comptroller were taken from an initial report which clearly stated that "an

examination of the results and the conclusions reached will be prepared as soon as possible in the framework of the summarising report".

The protection factor is a function of the threat and the level of exposure to this threat. The civilian population was provided with a 'protection package' including a sealed room, mask and first aid. The citizen was instructed how to use his protective devices and how to react during an alert. In case of an attack on the home-front, rescue and medical units arrive immediately at the site to evacuate and to provide care for the injured. Accordingly, the level of danger to which a civilian is exposed is incomparably lower than that to which a soldier is exposed on the battlefield. The damage caused by a single missile which falls in an urban area cannot be compared to a massive artillery barrage on a force in an exposed area. Moreover, the soldier is called upon to carry out a number of strenuous activities and not to sit and take cover. Accordingly, the levels of protection needed for the soldier and the civilian are not comparable at all.

Regarding the test report of the British laboratory the report states that the design of the mask allows for good protection (a factor of 1:1,000). The report does not report a quality level of 200,000 or even one million masks such as those manufactured in Israel during those years. In order to guarantee the suitable quality the masks were checked one by one (100 percent were checked) and approximately 13 percent (27,000) were failed, an acceptable level of failure when considering the storage conditions which existed overseas during 6-8 years. These masks were used in the aging test which was described above in minute detail and were found equal to the masks manufactured in 1986.

In summary—we distributed masks similar to those which have been found in the world since the 1930's until today. Technological advances, the majority of which were developed in Israel, provide much greater comfort to the protected public. But the main point is that the protection provided today is better and more suitable to the threat. Regrettably some of the people in the State Comptroller's Office were dragged into professional fields in an issue which is not in their sphere of specialization. This occurred through the quotation of sections of preliminary reports from the work documents of a professional system. This is a pity. Because the statements emanating from the State Comptroller's Office were designed to be helpful the IDF feels it appropriate to provide a complete picture.

Kibbutz Member, 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash

TA1704143691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] A member of Kibbutz Neve Ur was killed and a terrorist slain in a clash with terrorists in the Bet She'an Valley this morning. The kibbutz member's family has been notified. Three other kibbutz residents were wounded. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops are still searching the area.

The IDF spokesman reports the clash occured at 0845 today in an orange grove of Kibbutz Neve Ur. The terrorists, apparently two, laid in ambush in the orange grove. When a tractor carrying several kibbutz members drove by, the terrorists opened fire. One kibbutz resident was killed and another three wounded. IDF troops arrived and during a search spotted one of the terrorists hiding in the orange grove and killed him. Documents of the Popular Army [not further identified] and papers linking him to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were found on the terrorist's body.

During the searches, all roads in the area were closed to traffic for a few hours and a state of supreme emergency was declared in all the settlements. Meanwhile, memorial services for IDF soldiers fallen in wars were being held in military cemeteries in the area. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, and Commander of the Central Command Major General Dani Yatom arrived on the scene.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reported that searches are still under way with the help of helicopters. Gen. Yatom told our correspondent that it is still unclear how the terrorists reached the orange grove situated on the other side of the Zemah-Bet She'an highway. Nevertheless, Gen. Yatom pointed out, in view of the fact that the slain terrorist was a Jordanian citizen, responsibility for the infiltration lies with the Jordanian Government. The facts prove that the Jordanians fail to prevent such infiltrations and that is why the IDF takes all the necessary measures, Gen. Yatom noted.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that today's was the second clash in the same area in the last three days. Staff Sergeant Doron Brauner was seriously wounded in Monday's clash with a terrorist, who was a Jordanian soldier. This terrorist had infiltrated Israeli territory after crossing the Jordan River, cutting the security fence, and hiding in a palm tree grove near Kibbutz Neve Ur, some 200 meters from the border.

Our correspondent points out that in the past year terrorists have tried to infiltrate Israel from Jordanian territory on seven occasions. Military sources say that Israel holds Jordan responsible for the terrorist infiltrations from its territory. According to these sources, Jordan tries to prevent such infiltrations, but the Jordanian Army can hardly tackle that task.

Hebron Youth Killed

TA1704045091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] In Hebron, an Arab youth was killed last night in a clash with Israeli soldiers. He was among a group of masked men who had thrown stones at Israeli vehicles.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is carrying out an investigation into the circumstances of his death.

In the Ra's al-'Amud quarter of East Jerusalem, masked men threw stones at border policemen and blocked the main road with rubbish carts and stones. Police fired rubber bullets to disperse them; one person was wounded.

The Army has closed the territories from 0400 this morning until the end of Independence Day tomorrow night. The step is to prevent residents of the territories from carrying out attacks in Israel.

Arab Killed Crossing Border

TA1704173691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] An Arab youngster who tried to swim across the Egyptian-Israeli border was killed in Rafah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident took place early Monday morning when two young Arabs from Rafah in the Gaza Strip tried to swim from the Egyptian side of the border to the Israeli side. Military sources said one of them was killed, while the other was rescued by soldiers and arrested.

Arens: Jordan Not Understanding Message

TA1804094291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that it is possible that the two incidents in the Bet She'an Valley three days ago and yesterday were carried out by the same squad. Mr. Arens noted that the message to Jordan has been relayed many times, and Israel is beginning to worry that the message was not understood or that Jordan cannot act the way it should. According to him, the situation must be reexamined to ensure the safety of the citizens in the region. The defense minister made these remarks to our correspondent Mira Amsalem after the reception for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and soldiers who were awarded for excellence at the President's Residence. [passage omitted]

The head of the Bet She'an Valley Regional Council said that the defense minister and the chief of staff made it clear to him that as soon as within the next several days steps will be taken to make sure that no war of attrition is waged in the area.

Searches in the Bet She'an Valley continue, where the residents were asked to carry weapons all day. Across the border, in Jordan, roadblocks were also erected and searches were made.

'Authorized Source' Confirms Baker Visit

JN1704195491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] An authorized Jordanian source said in Amman today that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is expected in Amman next Saturday [20 April], where he will be received by King Husayn.

This is the first Jordanian confirmation of Baker's upcoming visit to Amman.

Paper: Baker Visit Wasted if Israel Not Pushed

JN1804082691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Where Do the U.S. Moves Lead?"]

[Text] James Baker begins his third Middle East tour today with a visit to Israel. The government and opposition in Israel are in agreement that the building of settlements should continue. Israel is thus underscoring its hardline position and its failure to abandon part of Shamir's plan or its expansionist, colonialist ambitions.

The U.S. secretary has not announced clear and defined proposals, ideas, or a plan to discuss in the capitals he is going to visit. Nor has he stressed his country's commitment to world legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions to solve the Palestine question and end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In his first tour immediately after the war, the secretary sounded out the views and ideas of a number of the capitals he visited. There was Arab unanimity on an international conference as the means for achieving a settlement.

In his second tour, he also sounded out the views of the region's capitals; he listened more than he talked about ways to achieve the settlement. But Arab unanimity on the international conference moved back and Egypt accepted a regional conference, which is essentially part of Shamir's plan stemming from the Camp David accords.

Israel, for its part, continued its intransigence; it maintained its hardline position and showed no flexibility to speak of. Before the war, Israel foiled all peace plans, including the American ones.

Concerning this third tour, the Arabs and Palestinians are waiting for Baker to come up with serious ideas, proposals, or a plan based on world legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

The Arabs are waiting for Baker to put some pressure on Israel so that it will soften its position, accept the principle of land for peace, and abandon its settlement policy and expansionist ambitions.

What is the use of this tour, and indeed of all the U.S. moves so long as Israel refuses to comply with international legitimacy and rejects all efforts to bring about just peace in the region, if Washington does not express indignation or dissatisfaction with the Israeli position, and, indeed, levels any serious criticism of Israel?

If there are good, sincere, and serious intentions to achieve just peace in the region, there will be no pressing need for further tours. What counts is a true commitment to international legitimacy, similar to the U.S. commitment during the Gulf crisis. This is the only way to a peaceful settlement and a just peace. Otherwise, any U.S. moves colliding with Israel's intransigence will end in failure. We say this on the assumption that with Baker's tours Washington is not seeking more Arab concessions whereby the Arab position continues to move toward the Israeli position until they become identical and the Camp David accords become the basis of the settlement.

Editorial on Baker's Past, Upcoming Visits

JN1804085391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By the political affairs editor]

[Text] Mr. James Baker will be coming to Amman, but we do not want to make a statement on the visit before it actually takes place. This is what one ranking official in Amman told AL-RA'Y yesterday.

With this Jordanian confirmation of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Amman Saturday new things need to be clarified or rejected.

Baker's previous visits, particularly since the crisis erupted last August, took on a tangential form when seen in their Arab context. They rested on the traditional pillars of Riyadh and Cairo. A third stop in Damascus was added afterward.

With the facts of politics in mind, Jordan cannot downgrade Baker's visit to Amman, a minister of the superpower that has taken it upon itself to construct the universe from a new perspective which, it claims, will be good for the next 100 years.

Given the geographical facts, the key location, and the history of Jordan, the United States, while getting its oil ready to enter the Middle East kitchen, cannot dismiss or sidestep Jordan's importance.

And in order not to put the two stands, American and Jordanian, on an equal footing—we are, after all, talking about the superpower—we need to clarify things by saying that a comparison of the two roles is governed by the nature and form of recent relations between the two countries.

This time Jordan, the new stop fed into the flight plan of Baker's plane, wants to find out what the results of the visit will be.

A ranking Jordanian official said that we should not expect dramatic results from this visit, but that it is an important opportunity to exchange views in depth and with a sense of responsibility.

Jordan's view is very well known to Mr. Baker. Ever since Security Council Resolution 242 was issued after the 1967 war, and since going through all international crises, Jordan has always been one of the countries most persistent in demanding the application of international legitimacy. Jordan's democracy, which has become a model that can be made use of and referred to as an experiment, today has come a very long way. Moreover, Jordan is about to overcome the current economic crisis which burdened it in circumstances in which the political whims of some parties became intermixed with economic resources.

Jordan, which will be receiving Baker, has gone beyond the stage of having to explain its stand on the Gulf crisis to the Europeans, who now understand and sympathize.

Lastly, Jordan is the region's wailing wall and the hook for all its troubles, Palestine and the Palestine question. The politics of the two are as close as the history, the geography, and the thinking.

There are two understandings, one Jordanian and the other American. The Jordanian understanding stems basically from the need to have a just settlement for the root of the conflict in the Middle East, which is the reason for its continuing instability. The Americans understand this somehow. Jordanian aspires to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region starting primarily with an arrangement of the priorities of peace by ordering the priorities of those involved in the process. In this field, Jordan believes there is a Palestinian-Israeli problem and a separate Arab-Israeli problem. The solution starts with resolving the Palestine question. In this thinking, Jordan is supported not only by the Palestinians, but also Syria, which believes this as well. Some major international powers also prefer this solution. The Americans, however, seem to believe that the solution starts with the whole and then proceeds to the parts. This is an issue that might be one of the elements of the talks.

Jordan supported the international conference because of what it believed was appropriate and accorded with the superpowers' balance, built originally on the two poles, Moscow and Washington. But today, what could the American ideas on the international conference be? What will Jordan say in this conference? This is another question that will occupy a prominent place in the next round of negotiations.

Mr. Baker's discussions in Amman are different from his discussions in the capitals of the region. Despite everything else, Amman has succeeded in asserting its position regarding the two issues in the region, the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis. The United States succeeded in the Gulf situation. Will it succeed in solving the Middle East crisis in a way different from that in which it achieved success in the Gulf?

This is a question that will be the key to the success of Mr. Baker's visit to Amman. Washington will have made a mistake and succeeded in one instance but will be doing the right thing as well as succeeding in the other.

Mashariqah on Peace Process, Arab Cause

JN1704180991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1456 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Speech by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Evacuation Day, in Damascus—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On this honorable occasion, it pleases me to convey to you and to all the masses the greetings of leader President Hafiz al-Asad and his heartfelt congratulations on Evacuation Day. It also pleases me to convey his pledge to the Arab nation's masses that the values and principles of Evacuation Day will be safeguarded and that the banners of jihad will continue to fly high until the Arab nation liberates its occupied territory and regains its usurped rights, particularly the inalienable national rights of the Arab Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. The banners of jihad will continue to fly high until unity is achieved throughout the Arab land. [passage omitted]

On the level of the liberation struggle, Syria has made the Palestine question its central issue and devoted all its capabilities and potential in the interest of this issue. Syria mobilized all Arab capabilities and resources to defend the Arab nation and pan-Arab interests and to confront the dangers surrounding it. In his comprehensive speech at the Iftar banquet in honor of the scholars and men of religion, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed that our eyes are always trained on the enemy, who is targeting our land and all that we possess. We always march in accordance with our pan-Arab principles and adhere to them. We neither flatter anyone where truth is concerned, nor do we relinquish the general interest.

The achievements attained under the blessed corrective movement have reinforced Syria's pan-Arab role and enabled it to offer greater sacrifices to defend our pan-Arab issues, particularly the main issue—the Palestine question. Building a solid economic basis, organizing the state institutions, and building defense capabilities to defend the country's security and safeguard its independence were among the most important achievements that enabled Syria to safeguard, defend, and preserve the Arab cause. These achievements enabled Syria to remain steadfast in the face of the aggressive Zionist scheme and to confront all its challenges. These achievements will enable it to remain steadfast until we achieve the liberation of all occupied Arab territory, restore the national inalienable rights of the Arab Palestinian people, and establish a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

O comrades, O brother citizens: At a time when Arab efforts should have concentrated on confronting the Zionist aggression, addressing international changes, and consolidating fraternal Arab ties to reach the final objective of the Arabs—the achievement of Arab unity—the Iraqi regime invaded Kuwait. This created a serious situation in the region and the world, thus seriously threatening the Arab nation and its future. Syria saw the serious dangers of the invasion threatening Iraq, Kuwait, and the Arab nation. It took the initiative to exert efforts and hold contacts to stop the disaster and abort the plot. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime continued its madness and crimes. It was not satisfied with what was inflicted on Iraq by the war in which it entangled itself. The Iraqi regime has turned what is left of its military force after its defeat in the war into a tool to strike at the Iraqi people, whose wounds have not been attended to—not since the war which the Iraqi regime started against Iran—and which are still bleeding from the Gulf war. The Iraqi regime has poured its anger on the Iraqi citizens and killed and displaced the masses with methods not followed by even the most brutal tyrants in history.

The countries throughout the Arab nation are called on to stand on the side of the people of Iraq, on the side of the refugees in Iraq, and on the side of those who are sacrificing their blood because they are tired of enduring injustice and coercion. The Arab nation is called on to support the people of Iraq in the face of the plot being implemented by the Iraqi regime—the plot that aims at Lebanonizing the situation in Iraq and fragmenting this fraternal country. [passage omitted]

Since 16 November 1970, Syria has been raising the slogan of Arab solidarity to mobilize Arab capabilities to confront aggression and to establish Arab relations that are based on confidence, cooperation, and the unity of affiliation and destiny. Syria succeeded in some stages in moving the Arab situation toward a better stage. Today, after the invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war, the Arab citizen is experiencing a state that has not existed for a long time. The enemies of the Arab nation are the only ones who are benefiting from this situation. They are doing their best to entrench the current Arab situation, increase Arab conflicts, and waste Arab potential so that the voice of the Zionist enemy will be the only voice that rises in the region.

Out of its belief that what threatens an Arab region will threaten the entire homeland, Syria will do its very best to remove the causes that created this abnormal, bad state to move to a new Arab situation through which the Arabs will be able to regain the initiative, stick to their causes, and defend them. The Damascus Declaration between Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf states came within this framework. It is open to any Arab country that believes in the objectives put forth in this declaration. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Confers With Al-Hirawi, King Husayn

JN1704183391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a phone call yesterday evening from Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon. They spoke about the situation in the region and issues of common concern.

President Hafiz al-Asad also received yesterday evening a phone call from His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. They discussed developments in the region.

Bangladesh

Six Detained Ministers Moved to District Jails

BK1404074891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have moved six former ministers under deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government from the Dhaka Central Jail to district prisons, sources said Sunday.

They said former ministers Mahmudul Hasan, Ruhul Amin Howlader, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Zafar Imam, Kazi Firoze Rashid and H.M.A. Gaffar had been taken from the central jail to various other prisons.

No official reason for the transfers was available, but sources said it could be a step before shifting Mr. Ershad to the central jail from a villa in Gulshan diplomatic district, where he is now under house arrest.

The government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said Mr. Ershad would be shifted to the high-security central jail soon.

Jail sources said one cell was being prepared for the former president and an air conditioner has been fitted.

Mr. Ershad, 61, stepped down in December in the face of mass unrest against his nearly nine years in power and is currently being tried by a special tribunal for corruption and possession of illegal weapons.

New Ambassador to U.S., Other Envoys Named

BK1004162091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Dhaka, April 10 (AFP)—Bangladesh named Abul Ahsan as its new envoy to the United States, a newspaper here reported Wednesday.

The MORNING SUN said Foreign Secretary Ahsan would replace Ataul Karim in Washington.

The country's current ambassador in Zimbabwe, Humayun Kabir, has been made the envoy to the United Nations, it said, adding that Reaz Rahman would replace Mr. Ahsan.

A foreign office spokesman said "there is some substance in the report," but refused to comment further.

All of the reported appointees are career diplomats, with Mr. Ahsan being the first secretary general of the Kathmandu-based seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

SAARC, founded in Dhaka in 1985, groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives.

India

Schedule of National Elections Announced

BK1704144091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The poll schedule for next month's Lok Sabha and assembly elections has been announced. Seven states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh will have a two-day poll. The remaining states and the union territories will have a single-day poll. Dates for Punjab and Assam are to be announced later.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, told newsmen in New Delhi today that Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will go to the polls on the 20th and 26th of next month; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan on the 20th and 23d; Karnataka and Maharashtra will have elections on the 23d and 26th of next month. On the 20th, elections will be held in four states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and West Bengal, and in the four union territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Laccadive. On the 23d of next month, eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura, and the two union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu will go to polls. On the 26th, three states of Gujarat, Orissa, and Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Pondicherry will have polls.

Assembly polls in Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and the union territory of Pondicherry will be held on the same days when the Lok Sabha elections take place. The by-elections to the legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Mizoram will also be held on the same days on which parliamentary constituencies go to the polls.

Janata Dal-Samajwadi, Janata Party Merge

BK1704143291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Janata Dal-S and the Janata Party have merged to form the Samajwadi Janata Party. Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, in a press release issued in New Delhi today, said the merger was formalized by the Janata Dal-S apex committee at its meeting last night. The press release adds that the Samajwadi Janata Party will contest elections on the chakra-haldhar [wheel-plowman] symbol.

New Party Releases Election Manifesto

BK1704162891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Janata Dal-Samajwadi promises decentralization of power to bring jan swaraj [people's self-rule] and building of a new environment of mutual trust and national unity. In its election manifesto released in New Delhi this evening by the party leader, Mr. Chandra

Shekhar, the Janata Dal-Samajwadi resolves that ideals of a decentralized administration and political structure will be translated into action in all earnestness. It says the process of transferring more powers to local bodies will culminate in giving more autonomy to the states. The party says that the question of creating smaller states will be reexamined, keeping in view the cultural aspirations of the people and administrative efficiency.

On the price front, the party promises that it will correct distortions in investment priorities and work toward providing basic necessities of food, clothing, housing, health and education to all within the next five years. It says that it will ensure parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial commodities. The manifesto identifies nine priority areas with definite targets to be achieved by the end of the eighth plan. It promises eradication of illiteracy before 1995, irrigation facilities for an additional 37 million hectares of land, drinking water facilities in each village, and formation of Rachna Vahini [Reconstruction Force] to provide 1 crore productive jobs to the jobless youth. The manifesto says that to fruitfully channelize the energies of the youth, they will be enlisted in Rachna Vahini for setting up and expanding the economic infrastructure. The manifesto also promises revitalization of the cooperative movement and creation of 4,500 ideal villages in 450 districts for integrated rural development.

The party emphasizes that it will continue dialogue, mutual understanding, and persuasion to solve the problems in Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir.

About the religious and linguistic minorities, the manifesto says that the Janata Dal-Samajwadi believes that equal opportunities should be provided to all sections irrespective of their religion, caste, community and region for an overall national development. It reasserts that the Ayodhya temple issue must be resolved through dialogue and cooperation. The manifesto proposes that to deal with communal riots, a specially trained police force—Shanti Suraksha Bal—be created with a secular composition. The party says it will give top priority to basic reforms in education facilities to scheduled castes and tribes and special attention to girls' education. It also says a special task force will be created to preserve and protect the symbols of our cultural heritage.

Replying to questions, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said elections in Punjab and Assam will be held, though these may be delinked from the Lok Sabha polls because of the problem of law and order and deployment of security forces.

Meeting Ruled Out

BK1804035891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out convening an all party meeting to discuss holding of elections in Punjab and Assam. Talking to newsmen after releasing the Janata Dal-S manifesto in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there is no point in discussing the issue with leaders of major political parties. He said the party critical of government's decision should have talk to him before issuing public statement. Mr. Chandra Shekhar added the elections in these states need not necessarily beheld simultaneously with the next month's Lok Sabha poll.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, says there should be enough time gap between the installation of a new government at the center and holding of assembly elections in Punjab and Assam. In an informal chat with newsmen in New Delhi, he said this is necessary to enable the new government to tackle firmly the situation likely to develop in these states.

ULFA Says Will Not Interfere With Elections

BK1604051491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The United Liberation Front of Assam [ULFA] says it will not interfere with the holding of elections and the related political process in the state. The general secretary of the party, Mr. Anup Chetia, in a statement in Guwahati said that though the organization is against the ongoing political process in the state, it has changed its stand in view of the demand of people in general for peace and tranquility. He said ULFA has also decided to extend the cease-fire.

Army Sweeps Ended

BK1704150891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister has welcomed the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] statement suspending its violent activities and said that in the changed circumstances, the army and paramilitary operations in Assam will not be necessary. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said that ULFA's withdrawal of its ultimatum to the political parties and its decision not to interfere in the election process will help in creating a proper climate for holding elections. He said it is bound to help the process of creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

25 Injured in Calcutta Hindu-Muslim Clashes

BK1704160091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 17 (AFP)—At least 25 people were injured Thursday in a rare case of Hindu-Moslem fighting in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta that forced police to open fire, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Police arrested 43 men following the violence, which erupted after a bomb exploded during a prayer meeting by Moslems celebrating Id al-Fitr, triggering a pitched street battle between Moslems and Hindus.

The news agency said "two groups from different communities" attacked each other with stones and other missiles, and the clash rapidly spread to adjoining residential areas, forcing the police action.

PTI said police fired into the crowd after baton charges and tear gas failed to end the clashes. But officials gave no breakdown of the injuries, and it was not known if the bomb blast caused any damage.

Though Hindu-Moslem riots are common in India, they are a rare occurrence in West Bengal, the Marxist-administered eastern province of which Calcutta is the capital.

PTI quoted West Bengal Home Secretary Manish Gupta as saying that the situation in Calcutta was "under control" and that a large contingent of armed police had been deployed in the violence-hit areas.

'Id al-Fitr, or feast of the sacrifice, marks the end of the Moslem holy month Ramadan.

Kashmir Militants Threaten To Kill 2 Swedes

BK1704161891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 17 (AFP)—Moslem militants in Kashmir threatened Wednesday to kill two Swedes kidnapped more than a fortnight ago, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said the militants had decided to kill the two hostages because Indian authorities and international bodies had failed to comply with the militants' demands.

"The result of rejection of the demand by the Government of India and the international bodies will be known anytime," an anonymous caller reportedly told PTI in Srinagar City, summer capital of Kashmir.

The caller reportedly said the bodies of Olle Loman and Johan Jansson, both engineers, would be found "outside" the Kashmir valley "anytime."

Unidentified men kidnapped the two men, who were employed at a hydroelectric project in Kashmir's Uri District, at gunpoint between Tangmarg and Gulmarg, 45 kilometres (28 miles) from Srinagar, on March 31.

The MJF [Muslim Janbaz Force] has demanded that the Indian Government allow an Amnesty International team and UN observers to visit Kashmir, apparently to study alleged atrocities by Indian security forces in the valley.

PTI reported earlier that the MJF had set a midnight Tuesday deadline for New Delhi to concede the demands.

The militants' threat to kill the two men came despite an appeal from United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and a Swedish Islamic group. Amnesty International has also condemned the kidnappings.

Moslem militants are fighting for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, in a violent campaign which has left more than 2,200 people dead since January 1990.

Iran

Further Reportage on Iraqi Refugee Situation

Rafsanjani Comments

NC1804061191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Speaking at a session of the Fars administrative council last night, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: Although we have received only very minimal assistance from world countries and international organizations, all capabilities within Iran have been mobilized and an awe-inspiring and praiseworthy effort has been mounted to meet the refugees' needs. As a result of the sincere efforts of the nation and the government, we have been able to provide 70,000 tents to house the refugees. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: This assistance has again shown the humane nature of the Islamic Republic to the world.

The president, who arrived in Shiraz yesterday afternoon, told officials, clergymen, and the Fars people's Majles deputies: The movement of Iraqi refugees toward Iran is a sign of the Iraqi people's sincere interest in the Islamic revolution. We will remain their hosts until the time security is established in Iraq and the refugees can return to their country.

Regarding the possible dismemberment of Iraq, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani clarified: In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nearness to Iraq, the dismemberment of this country is not to the benefit of the United States in any way and foreign forces cannot maintain a permanent presence in the area. Therefore, I am optimistic about this on the whole.

The president pointed out: The political and social situation in our country has improved. Now that the main difficulties have been overcome, the world is trying to attract the attention of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The president said: In view of the strength of Islamic Iran today, there is no question that it will ever be an aggressor and no significant danger threatens us in the region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the political and social activities on the international and regional levels in relation with the Islamic Republic of Iran as good, and added: Some of the inconveniences we faced earlier in the world have been removed. There is no difficulty for us, especially in Europe; the Europeans are fully prepared to cooperate with us.

On the country's reconstruction, the president expressed the hope that the programs being implemented to solve

problems in fields such as transportation and construction materials will further accelerate the reconstruction process. Pointing to the national importance of Fars Province, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The solution of many of this province's problems, such as its access to the Persian Gulf, the construction of a railway, and the harnessing of surface waters, will benefit the entire country, and the government will devote its attention to these problems to the best of its ability.

Before the president spoke, the Fars governor general and several executive officials and the Fars people's Majles deputies discussed the favorable climate that exists in the province for development and progress and submitted separate reports.

Syria Promises Help

LD1204103591 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, April 12, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari Thursday briefed Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on the foodstuff and medicine needs of the Iraqi refugees in Iran.

Latest developments in the Persian Gulf region were also discussed in the meeting. Khaddam promised to help the Iraqi refugees whose number in Iran alone has reached nearly one million.

Saqqez Governor Gives Details

LD1404123191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Monthly milk powder ration coupons have been issued for 3,105 newborn babies who are being given shelter in camps in the town of Saqqez. According to the Central News Unit, the governor of Saqqez announced this fact, and said: Over 11,600 Iraqi refugees in the town's camps have also been given medical treatment, and 537 have been hospitalized in the town's hospitals and medical centers. He added: Because of the increased arrival of Iraqi refugees in Saqqez, most houses and mosques, and some training centers and schools as well as halls and sports centers, are sheltering refugees.

Despite the use of all the town's medical and health facilities there is currently a great need for the cooperation of pediatricians, and for antibiotics and vitamins as well as tents, blankets, and portable cooking stoves.

Treatment Figures Updated

LD1404135691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1245 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The number of refugees who have entered our country through the Piranshahr border has exceeded 300,000. The governor of Piranshahr announced the fact in an interview, and said: Relief work begins immediately after the refugees' arrival, and between two and three thousand refugees are given medical treatment each day in the town's fixed and mobile health centers. [passage omitted]

The health and treatment network of Khorramshahr has delivered health and treatment services to over 12,000 Iraqi refugees so far. In an interview with IRNA, the person in charge of Khorramshahr's health and treatment network said: 10,700 of the refugees received outpatient treatment, and another 1,300 who had suffered injuries as a result of Iraqi military attacks were either hospitalized or transferred to health centers outside Khorramshahr. He announced the establishment of four health and treatment bases in four camps in Khorramshahr for Iraqi refugees, and added: 5,750 refugees have also been vaccinated so far.

It should be noted that so far over 35,000 Iraqi refugees have taken refuge in Khorramshahr through the Shalamcheh border, and they have been placed in camps.

UN Official Seeking International Aid

LD1404174891 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Ms. Sadako Ogata in a meeting here Sunday with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati appreciated Iran's efforts for helping Iraqi refugees streaming into Iran to escape the general massacres ordered by the Ba'thist regime.

She said the United Nations and especially the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] would do its best to enlist international help for aiding the Iraqi refugees in Iran.

In response, Velayati noted that the Iranian Government was somehow taken by surprise at the sudden flow into Iran of an unexpectedly vast number of refugees, but that although it was unprepared it could have denied them entry into Iran.

However, he said, in view of the situation in Iraq it is necessary that as long as an ultimate solution for the case has not been arrived at aids to the refugees continue uninterrupted.

He said many of the refugees are suffering from contagious diseases and that it necessary that hospitals be erected near the western borders for the treatment of sick refugees.

The U.N. high commissioner for refugees is to visit a few encampments of the Iraqi refugees in Iran to identify the priority areas for international help to the persecuted Iraqis.

EC Official To Lobby for Aid

LD1604011691 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—A European Community envoy currently here to explore ways of helping Iraqi refugees residing in Iran promised on Monday to persuade the EC to give more assistance to the refugees when he returns home.

In a meeting with Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Atraian, the EC envoy said he had personally watched huge floods of refugees pouring into Iran and had found them in a very hard situation.

Atrian, also head of a crisis headquarters at the Interior Ministry, said according to the latest statistics nearly one million Iraqis have taken refuge in Iran where the people and government were doing their best to meet their needs in compliance with their Islamic duties.

He said because of the large number of refugees it was necessary for foreign countries to increase their emergency supplies for the refugees.

He cited the most vital items foreign countries should supply for the refugees as tents, means of transportation and medical instruments, adding that other items needed by them could be provided.

Over 50,000 Treated in Bakhtaran

LD1704113891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Central News Unit states that so far 52,190 sick and injured Iraqi refugees, who were among 500,000 refugees who arrived in Bakhtaran Province from Iraq, have been given medical treatment.

According to the same report, as many as 100 experienced physicians have been stationed in Paveh, Javanrud, Qasr-e Shirin, and Sar Pol-e Zahab to treat sick and injured refugees.

The report states that 44 ambulances and 18,500 boxes of powdered milk, together with 21 trucks loaded with medical supplies, have been dispatched for the use of the Iraqi refugees, who are being cared for in the camps in Bakhtaran Province.

More in Bakhtaran; Totals Cited

LD1704130691 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 17, IRNA—Thousands of Iraqi refugees crossed the western borders and entered Iran overnight Tuesday [16 April].

Out of 435,745 refugees who have so far arrived in Bakhtaran, more than 350,000 have been transferred to the camps set up in the nearby towns.

Meanwhile, generous donations of the Iranian people continue to arrive in Bakhtaran and hundreds of truckloads of popular donations are distributed among the refugees every day.

According to the latest figures the total number of the refugees has reached 901,120, of which 435,745 have arrived in Bakhtaran, 286,920 in West Azerbaijan, 107,400 in Kordestan, 68,396 in Khuzestan and 2,659 in Ilam Provinces respectively.

UN Informed of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD1704140191 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 17, IRNA—Cease-fire regulations between Iran and Iraq were seriously violated by Iraq twice last March, Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi informed U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar in a letter dated April 12.

On March 25, two Iraqi helicopters violated the air space of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Khosrawi border area, Western Iran, the letter said adding that the Iraqi helicpoters left the area after conducting reconnaissance operations.

The letter further referred to the Iraqi cease-fire violation on March 26 when Qasr-e Shirin, neighbouring Khosravi border area, became the target of 30 shells fired from Iraqi artillery and 120 mm mortars. Three shells compacted the Khosrawi border post and two shells hit the Khosrawi camp which resulted in injury of one border guard, it added.

Kharrazi said in his letter that the Iraqi cease-fire violations have been officially protested to the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran by the ministry of foreign affairs.

Tehran Views Internal Situation in Iraq

LD1804083691 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Internal Changes in Iraq"]

[Text] After nearly two months since the uprising of the Muslims of Iraq, reports and news received from the (?opposition) forces say that continuation of the clash between the popular forces and the Republican Guards loyal to the government in most towns and (?internal) zones of Iraq, especially in the northern Kurdish regions, has greatly worried the rulers of that country.

According to Iraqi emigrants who have taken refuge in neighboring countries, bloody clashes and guerrilla warfare are violently going on in some cities between armed people and Ba'thist soldiers in which state forces make use of all kinds of heavy and semi-heavy weapons to suppress this popular uprising. But despite these savage measures [word indistinct] to the martyrdom of a large number of Iraqi Muslims, the forces of the Ba'thist party

are helpless in controlling many of the rebelling zones in the North and South of Iraq and opposition centers continue their moves and activity. At present the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is placed under great internal and international pressure. The massacre of the people by the Army has roused waves of protest and the disrespect shown towards the sacred islamic cities and centers has prompted sharp reactions in Muslim states and other free countries of the world against Saddam Husayn.

Meanwhile, the desertion of Iraqi soldiers from their posts or their captivity in the hands of opposition forces has caused Baghdad to be short of military units to confront the people. The instability in Iraq, owing to wide popular protest, has made the future of the country ambiguous. And while one sector of Iraqi territory is under the occupation of the American forces and their allies, Ba'thist leaders are engaged in the carnage of the people instead of respecting their rights. According to the reports of international circles, food and medical conditions are very critical in Iraq and the people there emigrate in large groups for fear of famine and collective massacre by means of chemical weapons and napalm bombs, trying to reach neighboring countries or freed zones. The [word indistinct] clashes engaged [word indistinct] Iraq between the people and the state forces are actually the people's protest against the present rulers of Iraq. Public protests in Iraq speak of the extreme dissatisfaction of the people with the leaders of the Ba'thist party which, through the adoption of the wrong policies during the past months, have sacrificed all economic possibilities and national assets of Iraq and the lives of thousands of innocent human beings for their own ambition. The (?wrong measures) show that the Ba'thist party of Iraq, owing to its own performance, has no legitimacy among the people of that country. And without any doubt, continuation of the carnage of the Iraqi people means a great submergence and a swamp which produces nothing but sheer disgrace.

IRGC Commander Interviewed

LD1804083491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Fersian 1600 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Interview with Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, IRGC, by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live; from the "Armed Forces Program"]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], for accepting our invitation, and with his agreement I will begin the interview.

[Reza'i] Please.

[Correspondent] As you are aware, recently the honorable Majles endorsed the IRGC employment bill. I would be grateful if you could provide us with some information in that regard.

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the eminent commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and our dear martyr-nurturing nation, I must say that the IRGC, which is a fledgling organization born in the revolution, has gone through various stages in its growth. These stages have been very extensive, by virtue of which we achieved developments and progressions, the enforcement of which is a very important issue for the Corps. One of these achievements which had to be enforced and legalized related to IRGC employment issues. The employment and registration issue of the IRGC, from the initial enrollment and registration in the IRGC until the stages of training, deployment of each individual in the various IRGC missions and responsibilities, the service and the retirement issues, and the future of the Guards constitute a chain of issues which were compiled under the heading of employment regulations.

These regulations were compiled by virtue of the experiences we had gained on the battle scene, as well as those gained in the course of the formation and the organization of our own forces, and were initially submitted to the General Command Headquarters [GCHQ] and the eminent commander in chief of the Armed Forces. His eminence kindly commanded that they should be endorsed by the Majles, whereupon it was sent to the Majles and the Cabinet, where the dear brothers in the cabinet exerted great efforts, and then it was sent to Majles, where the honorable defense committee and all the honorable Majles deputies spent much time and studied these regulations diligently and with unexpected speed; it is now going through its final stages in the Majles.

These employment regulations endorse all dimensions related to the IRGC personnel and members. The personnel will enjoy official endorsement, which will free them from any qualms as to whether or not they will remain in the Guards. Such concerns will disappear, and the future of the individuals will become clearer. The trend of individual growth has been defined—the sort of training they need, the conditions attached to any responsibility, and the prerequisites for joining the IRGC. All such issues, which perhaps add up to 200 draft bills, are currently under debate in Majles. I believe that this bill is one of the future pillars of the IRGC—one of the organizational pillars of the IRGC—which will play a very effective and decisive role in the future of the Guards.

[Correspondent] Brother Reza'i, in view of the said bill, some notice must also have been given to ways of awarding grades. Would you please enlighten us with regard to grading?

[Reza'i] As regards grades, before debating its legal connotations and the measures involved in the employment bill, it would be better to consider the necessity of this. Grading in the IRGC and in any military organization constitutes a vital organizational factor which cannot be avoided by anyone, unless their intention is

other than forming a military organization. Even in non-military organizations, this grading exists in other forms, and under other titles. [passage omitted]

The trend followed by the IRGC.. [changes thought] From the beginning, when our revolutionary youth joined the IRGC from out of mosques, streets, and in the throes of the revolution, they were first an inexperienced force, ready to learn the military sciences and receive military training. They joined the IRGC, developed, and became organized and advanced in proportion to the conspiracies hatched against the revolution. Some time after that, that is to say, nearly a year after the revolution, the IRGC gradually adopted a military shape, and that was because the revolution warranted it.

In the wake of their confrontation with the counterrevolutionaries and the Ba'thist aggressors who had launched an attack against our country, we came to the conclusion that we could no longer carry on in the initial form, hence began to make organizational changes in proportion of the trend of the IRGC missions. First we formed a battalion [gordon] in the IRGC, and we did not have brigades or divisions. Following the enforcement of the initial war operations, we concluded that the war could not be continued without the formation of a brigade; therefore our operations after the Sa'am-ol 'Aa'meh [operation] were carried out by virtue of brigades. [passage omitted]

Gradually we formed divisions and the IRGC adopted a military and revolutionary form in its confrontation with events and conspiracies. It called on the people to come forward and organized them, fought the enemy, and adopted a popular and revolutionary nature in addition to its military shape. However, not only did this revolutionary nature not prevent us from adopting a military organization, but the military organization did not prevent us from adopting a revolutionary nature; they had to go forward together. We could not say that since we are revolutionary, we do not need brigades, divisions, or battalions. When a revolutionary force must be a military one, it must adopt some organizational form, designate a series of methods and patterns to construct both its revolutionary form as well as the military one.

Therefore, in practice we came to the conclusion that we needed cannons, tanks, brigades, and divisions, and now we have come to the conclusion that we must have grading. Grading is in fact an evolutionary growth in the IRGC. [passage omitted] If we want to make the IRGC a military force, then we must have grading. However, if we intend to employ some volunteers who fight for one night and then return to their homes, then that may not be necessary. The necessity of being a military force and an organization warranted the need for grading in the IRGC.

As for the criterion. [as heard] Firstly, grading in the IRGC is only an outward disciplinary sign which was established in the IRGC due to its organizational need. We may have a number of very strong, devout, sincere, and brave individuals who are currently in the lower ranks of the IRGC, but despite their present lower rank or maybe even lower ranks which they may occupy in future, this should not be considered as their true grade. The need for discipline, hierarchy, and organization warranted the grading of our individuals. This grading was a necessity particularly in the throes of the war events. Now that the grading has been done in the IRGC, we have adopted some criteria. The first criterion concerns military skills which the individuals have learnt. [passage omitted]

One criterion for grading is based on the military skills learnt by individuals on the field of action. The second criterion concerns the education of the individuals—to some extent the IRGC differentiates between the person who has a diploma, the one who has a degree, those who have masters or doctorates, and one who has secondary school education. Therefore the second grading criterion concerns education. The third criterion concerns military training. Someone may have received training for commanding a group, while there may be someone else who has received training for commanding a battalion—and even in the second category there are some who have obtained better results than others. Some one may have received training for commanding the general staff, some for war training, and some holy defense or national defense training. These are various degrees, equivalents for which exist in the world's classic trainings and sciences.

The fourth criterion concerns the moral and managerial factors and the social work experiences in the IRGC. We have individuals who are better at working with people, that is to say they can mobilize greater crowds. There may be individuals in the IRGC who are easily able to mobilize ten and twenty thousand people in a battle, while there are those who do not have such ability in terms of mobilizing or organizing. [passage omitted]

Of course there have been other criteria which we have not taken much notice of and those are the prerevolutionary criteria. There were individuals who perhaps carried guns in Khordad of 1342 [21 May-21 June 1963] to defend the revolution and Islam. There were individuals who became involved in the throes of battle from 1350 [1981] onward. These criteria were also considered, but the main ones concerned those formed after the revolution.

In a nutshell, grading in the IRGC is based first on military skills and experience; second on classical [military] science; third on military skills; and fourth on the ability to organize. And all of these exist.

Some may say that with such gradings the IRGC will lose its revolutionary form, or that our guards will no longer be revolutionary. That is not so. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] As you your graciously said, eventually every leader of the group will need a title which distinguishes between that of superior and those under him.

My question is about the criteria you graciously mentioned in connection with giving ranks to those who have been on the battlefronts during the war. If there is to be a fresh selection in the corps, i.e. someone new wants to join the corps, then what criteria will you use to grade them?

[Reza'i] As I said, new recruits must also go through their military education. Afterward they go to the action ground. They will be given marks during the time spent in the action ground. After several years, once again they will be given higher level training. Once again, they will be graded in the training ground.

In the future also the method will be the same, but then marks given for training might be higher, taking into account that there may not be a war and individuals must be mainly assessed in the training ground and their abilities appraised. It makes no difference when a test is carried out; in the classroom or in the action ground. Sometimes there is a battleground. Then the best time for the individual to be tested and graded is in the battle ground. If we do not have a war in the future, we must make and appraise our personnel in the training ground. It is not definite that anyone who academically acquires some training can stay in the action ground. It may very well be that the reason why many world armies flee in the first battle is that their mould and grading have not been formed in the action ground but in a garrison environment without fire. And individuals may have been grouped together in a way that is unrealistic. They have not been formed under fire together but away from it. When, therefore, a war comes along, we see that the organization falls apart. Those that we have graded in garrisons, although it was difficult—but we have no choice from now on but to grade our personnel during training. [as heard] Of course for this task there are people who have acquired the ability in the battle ground to judge individals. And because of the experience they have in appraising individuals in situations, we will initially grade our personnel mainly during training and exercises which we will put them through and the rest [of the task] we will set aside until the action ground. The rest of their grading we can carry out in the action ground when they have learnt military science and techniques.

[Correspondent] In answer to the first question you graciously replied that duties have been determined for the corps. Could you please delineate those duties, which have been stressed by the eminent leader, the constitution, and the Majles?

[Reza'i] During the auspicious command of the commander in chief, the corps came under his kind attention, as before, and new duties were given it for the defense of the revolution. And commensurate with the fresh duties, the corps was charged with establishing new institutions. One of the duties was attaching more value to the experienced Basiji [mobilization] forces. And in this regard the Basij Resistance Force was formed, which we did not have before. This is newly formed and the decree for its formation has just been issued by the eminent leader [Khamene'i].

The next issue is the Jerusalem Force, which is for assisting the Muslims or Islamic states or Islamic governments, if they ask for training assistance, advisory assistance. This is now customary globally. If an Islamic state or government or people need to be put through some training, well, the corps will go there and give them training and take measures in training support for world Muslims or Islamic states. There was a need for a force for this, and the eminent leader commanded the corps to set it up. This force is being set up now and is mainly for helping Islamic governments and Islamic nations when there is a need to train them and transfer experience to them.

Regarding the extent of the previous duties of the corps, the demarcation between the corps' and the army's duties were determined. I mean, formerly, it was not clear in some areas which one was charged with the responsibility, the corps or the Army. For instance on the ground, where do the duties of the corps and the Army lie? This was not clearly established. It was the same in the sea and the air. Through the exhaustive efforts of the corps High Command Headquarters brothers and the help of corps brothers and the kindnesses of the eminent leader, the demarcations for the corps and the army were determined. That is to say, now it is exactly clear what duties the corps and the army have on the ground as well as in the sea and the air. The demarcations have been clearly determined. And this is the second point of the changes that have come about in the duties of the corps and the army. [passage omitted]

Canadian Minister Pledges Increased Refugee Aid

LD1704170791 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—Ottawa's assistance to the Iraqi refugees in Iran will be increased by Canadian dlrs. [CDN] 6.5 million, Canadian Minister for External Relations and International Development Ms. Monique Landry announced in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi here Wednesday.

Of the sum, CDN two million will be provided through international relief agencies, CDN three million through the World Food program and CDN 1.5 million will be earmarked for the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Ms. Landry in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi Wednesday morning praised Iran for her humanitarian efforts in catering the Iraqi refugees.

The Canadian minister who visited a refugee camp in the West Azerbaijan Province yesterday added that the crisis is of global importance and calls for collective and international efforts.

Ms. Landry who arrived in Iran Tuesday also discussed situation of the refugees with Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Atrian-Far this morning.

Canada had earlier allocated CDN 8.1 million to international relief agencies. Ottawa will also provide two Boeing 707 aircraft to transport relief supplies from Germany to Iran.

Departs 17 Apr

LD1704193891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Canadian minister for external affairs and international development [Monique Landry], who had come to Iran yesterday to inspect the plight of the Iraqi refugees, left Iran at noon today. She was seen off by Foreign Ministry officials. On this visit, she inspected the country's western regions, the [Iraqi refugee] camps in Piranshahr and Sar Dasht, and the entry points of the Iraqi refugees to Iran. Ms. Landry was commissioned by the Canadian prime minister to conduct a close examination on the needs of the Iraqi refugees, so as to enable Canada to send the appropriate aid to them.

New French Ambassador Meets With Velayati

LD1504184491 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—New French Ambassador to Tehran Hubert Colin de Verdiere submitted a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister 'Ali- Akbar Velayati here today.

The French ambassador said to the Iranian foreign minister that he would do his best to broaden Tehran-Paris relations in all areas. He added that a scheduled visit to Tehran by the French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will greatly help that goal.

In response Velayati expressed pleasure with the current trend of relations between the two countries. The French ambassador also handed in a message for Velayati from Dumas.

Khamene'i Arrives in Mashhad on Pilgramage

LD1704111291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, arrived in the holy city of Mashhad this morning on a pilgrimage to the immaculate shrine of his holiness the eighth imam, 'Ali Ibn-Musa al-Reza, peace be on him.

The Central News Unit reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez Tabasi, the representative of the guardian of the Muslims cause, who is also the guardian of the shrine of the imam, together with the governor general of Khorasan and a number of officials of the governorate general, welcomed the honorable leader at Mashhad Airport.

During his stay in sacred Mashhad, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in addition to his pilgrimage to the immaculate shrine of the eighth leader of the world Shiites, will officiate at a congregation of the martyr-nurturing and willing people of that city.

Italy Reportedly Shipping Arms to Tehran

TA1104185091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic regime has purchased large quantities of arms and military equipment from Italy. According to reports, the first shipment of Italian military hardware was dispatched by plane to Tehran on 8 April.

Burning Oil Wells Cause 'Gloom' in Bakhtaran

LD1704173891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17

[Text] Masses of black cloud spread over the Bakhtaran sky this afternoon, plunging that city in total darkness. According to a Central News Unit report, the intensity of the gloom in Bakhtaran, which lasted two hours, was so intense that street lights and those in houses were switched on and drivers of vehicles were forced to turn out their head lights. According to this report, the masses of black clouds also plunged the cities of Eslamabad, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Javanrud in total darkness.

According to a Central News Unit report from Ilam, there was black rainfall in that town for 30 minutes.

It should be mentioned that the masses of black clouds in Bakhtaran and black rainfall in Ilam result from the burning oil wells in Kuwait.

Pakistan

Private Firms Invited To Build Power Plants

BK1704154691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The government, under its privatization policy, has issued letters of intent to nine private companies for setting up power projects with the capacity of more than 4,000 megawatts. The Ministry for Water and Power had received 22 proposals for the construction of power projects in different parts of the country. A spokesman of the ministry told the Radio Pakistan representative that many foreign and local investors have expressed interest in setting up power generating projects.

The work on construction work of an oil-based 300-megawatt power station under Fauji Foundation at Bin Qasim and a gas-based 105-megawatt power station at Kabirwala will begin in September this year. Work on construction of a thermal and gas-based turbines of

135-megawatts each at Uch will begin early next year. Other power projects in the private sector include a 229-megawatt project at Hub Dam, four oil-based plants of 210 megawatts each at Jamshoro, and a 1,200-megawatt coal-based plant at Garani.

Gulf Oil Fires Pose Environmental Threat

BK1304141191 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Apr 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Black Rain Is Here"]

[Text] Parts of Balochistan, according to experts, are likely to receive more black rain in the coming days as clouds moving into the province are laden with smoke particles from the massive oil fires raging in Kuwait. It is not known exactly how serious is this threat to health and environment, but since the ill effects of the servere atmospheric pollution are being felt in some neighbouring countries, Pakistan cannot remain unaffected for long. Soon after the Gulf war, the environmental group, 'World Watch', warned that agriculture and food production in vast areas of Pakistan could be affected. Sulphur dioxide emissions from burning oil-wells could damage crops and grazing lands. Black rain, experts now say, could cause lung diseases, affecting the respiratory system of human beings and animals. The oil fires are sending some 750,000 tonnes of soot into the air daily and could be producing three million tonnes of sulphur. Kuwait oil has one of the highest sulphur contents in the world, the effects of which, according to experts, are very carcinogenic. So serious is the toxicity that evacuation from the worst affected areas in the Emirate is being considered.

The fires are belching clouds of smoke spreading as far as 1,600 miles from the wells, which could take more than two years to cap. On top of this, the massive oil spills have caused tremendous degradation of fish and aquatic life, a problem which has been made worse by the discharge of toxic effluents into the sea. More than a month has passed since the war came to a close and Pakistan's coast being not too far from the Gulf, the possiblity of the polluted waters having already reached the Arabian Sea and the coastal regions of some of the littoral states, therefore, is very real. The environmental situation in Pakistan, like in some other heavily populated regional states, was already bad enough when the present dangers came along to add to the worry.

Pakistan, in its present state, cannot meet the challenge without external assistance. It will have to step up programmes for assessing the threat and devising measures to combat it—an effort in which research organisations, including PCSIR [Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial research], EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] and PARC [Pakistan Atmospheric Research Council], have to play an important role by collating information and mounting coordinated efforts. Indeed, such is the magnitude of the problem that the best that Pakistan can do to control the effects of environmental pollution may not be good enough. International cooeration is essential for mobilising the necessary scientific knowhow and for adopting practical preventive and control measures.

A beginning in this direction can be made by forging initiatives at the regional level, especially when other states of the South Asian region are also likely to be affected in varying degrees. There is no doubt that such a course can produce useful results as indeed it has in the past in other regions. In the area of controlling pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, agreed rules were framed, for example, in the 1974 Helsinki Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic sea area. It is a notable example of cooperation by coastal countries for preventing, reducing and controlling pollution of the sea. In recent times, the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention of 1982 also provided the mechanism and ground rules for minimising marine pollution. SAARC [South Asian Assocation for Regional Cooperation], which has protection of the environment as one of its objectives, can play a meaningful role both in assessing the scale of the menance created by the gulf war and intitiating measures for combating it.

Black Smoke Reaches Northern Areas

BK1404160691 Lahore THE NATION in English 14 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Skardu—The black smoke coming out of the Gulf from the burning oil wells in Kuwait seems to have reached in the northern areas and Skardu. There is no heat in the sun and no light also.

The old people of the area say they have never seen the black clouds like these in their whole life. This is the time for greenery on the trees in April but with the extraordinary cold and weather in Skardu there is hardly any blossoming of the trees. The people have no hope that crops in the villages situated at high attitude mountains would ripe.

The black smoke and clouds will also affect the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] flights to Skardu from Islamabad which is the only source of communication with the rest of the country.

Quetta along with some other parts of Balochistan came under heavy black rains accompanied by hailstorm. Saturday [13 April] morning, flooding the city streets with carbon polluted black water.

The Met-Office told APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] that reports of black rain were received from several parts of the province during this week.

New Ambassador to USSR Named

BK1404161191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Islamabad, April 13—The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan announced to appointment of Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi as Ambassador of Pakistan to the USSR says a press note. [passage omitted]